SPECTRUM®

SpectroRx (SPECTRUM Resolution Expert) User's Guide 5.0rev1



Summary of Changes

Version	Date	Nature of Changes
9031666 E9	6/5/98	Documented Tool Tip help (see <i>Toolbar Buttons</i> in Chapter 2).

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Preface

The Preface lists background information for understanding the **SpectroRX User's Guide**.

Product Description

Welcome to the *SpectroRx (SPECTRUM Resolution Expert) User's Guide*. This guide describes how to use SpectroRx to provide fault resolution for network alarms.

Who Should Read This Guide

This guide is intended for SPECTRUM administrators, repairpersons, and troubleshooters who are responsible for keeping network devices and applications up and running.

Prerequisites for Users

Prior to using SpectroRx, administrators should be familiar with the X Window System and OSF/Motif. They should be experienced with SPECTRUM and SPECTRUM administration, as outlined in the **SPECTRUM Administrator's Reference**. Users should be familiar with the SpectroGRAPH user interface and with the user functions outlined in the **SPECTRUM Operator's Reference**.

Related Documentation

Use this guide in conjunction with the **SpectroRx Software Release Notice** (SRN).

You can download SPECTRUM documentation from:

http://www.cabletron.com/support/manuals/index.html

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How to Use This Guide

The guide is organized as follows:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Description</u>
Chapter 1 What is SpectroRx?	This chapter describes SpectroRx, the alarm resolution process, and case-based reasoning — the methodology SpectroRx uses to help you solve alarms.
Chapter 2 Getting Started	This chapter describes how to access and use SpectroRx and describes the fields, sections, and buttons in the SpectroRx window and text-edit dialog boxes.
Chapter 3 Developing the Case Library	This chapter describes how to create and develop the cases that make up the SpectroRx case library.
Chapter 4 Setting up SpectroRx as a Multi-User System	This chapter describes how to setup SpectroRx as a multi-user system.
Chapter 5 Finding Cases and Using the Library	This chapter describes how to find similar cases from the SpectroRx case library, execute solutions directly from the library, and print and mail cases.
Chapter 6 Integration with 3rd Party Applications	This chapter describes the SpectroRx integration interface.
Chapter 7 Intelligent Monitoring and Control	This chapter shows a programmer how to integrate SpectroRx and AlarmNotifier for intelligent monitoring and control — automatic monitoring and analysis of alarms, and the automatic execution of solutions.
Chapter 8 Accessing SpectroRx from the Web	This chapter describes how to set up a Web interface for SpectroRX, and how to access and use it.
Appendix A Installation	This appendix describes the procedures for installing SpectroRx.
Appendix B Customizing the Environment	This appendix describes how to edit the SpectroRx resource file cbr_setup, and other environment files.

Typographical Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this manual:

- Referenced chapter titles and section headings appear in italics (hypertext-blue italics for on-line readers).
- Referenced SPECTRUM publications appear in *bold italics*.
- User-supplied parameter names appear in angle brackets. For example, the parameter name for a password appears as <password>. The angle brackets indicate that you should type your password in the place of the generic parameter name.
- Text displayed on-screen appears in Courier font.
- Text to be typed in by the user and filenames appear in **bold**.

Questions about SPECTRUM Documentation



Send your questions, comments or suggestions regarding SPECTRUM documentation to the Technical Communications Department directly via the following internet address:

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Chapter 1

What is SpectroRx?

This chapter describes SpectroRx, the alarm resolution process, and case-based reasoning — the methodology SpectroRx uses to help you solve alarms.

In This Chapter

- How SpectroRx Can Benefit You
 What SpectroRx is and what it can do for you.
- The Alarm Resolution Process
 How Spectrum creates an alarm and how to use SpectroRx to resolve the alarm.
- What Is Case-Based Reasoning? How case-based reasoning works.
- How Case-Based Reasoning Systems Differ from Expert Systems
 The reasons Case-Based systems are different from Expert systems.
- *About SpectroRx* SpectroRx features:
 - * *Architecture* (the five operations that make it work)
 - * *The Case* (a problem with one or more solutions, whose appearance on a screen display is similar to a form you fill out)
 - * The Seed Case Library (a library of cases to get you started)
 - * The Case Library (a set of cases to help you resolve alarms)
 - * The Retrieval Algorithm (the method for finding cases)
- Suggested Reading
 Some books on case-based reasoning.

How SpectroRx Can Benefit You

SpectroRx (SPECTRUM Resolution Expert) is a case-based tool application that extends the fault resolution capabilities of SPECTRUM and other 3rd party fault-management applications.

SpectroRx enables administrators to collect, organize, and store knowledge about network problems and the resolutions to these problems. When new problems occur on the network, administrators can request solutions from SpectroRx. SpectroRx examines its store of knowledge and then presents the user with solutions based on past experience.

These are the specific benefits SpectroRx provides:

- SpectroRx gives you a way to access prior problem-solving expertise so that you can re-apply this expertise to new, outstanding problems.
- SpectroRx evolves dynamically as it is used, unlike other programs such as "Expert Systems." As a result, fault resolution strategies are adapted specifically to your particular network operations.
- The SpectroRx database preserves the problem-solving expertise that is normally lost due to personnel turnover.
- SpectroRx reduces downtime by providing quick solutions to problems.
- SpectroRx allows users to resolve a specific alarm by executing commands and scripts directly from a SpectroRx window.
- Both SPECTRUM and other 3rd party applications such as trouble ticket systems, help desks, and call-tracking systems can utilize the SpectroRx alarm resolution information.
- When integrated with AlarmNotifier, SpectroRx can monitor and resolve network problems automatically, without user intervention.

The Alarm Resolution Process

What SPECTRUM does

SPECTRUM continuously interrogates the devices on the network, storing the information about each device in the SpectroSERVER database. If SPECTRUM detects certain alarm conditions, it generates an alarm for the device. Although SPECTRUM itself provides symptoms and probable causes whenever an alarm occurs, this text is proprietary and cannot evolve or change to reflect your particular network. SpectroRx provides this problem-solving functionality.

What SpectroRx does

SpectroRx uses a problem-solving technique called case-based reasoning to organize the knowledge about network problems. A case consists of the alarm resolution information that you enter and additional alarm information provided by SPECTRUM. As you enter information about new alarms, SpectroRx adds the case to its case library. When you request information about solutions for a current alarm, SpectroRx finds the cases that are similar to that alarm and sorts them according to their degree of similarity to the alarm situation. The most similar case is displayed first, the least similar last. You review these past cases and adapt the solutions to the current problem.

How you can use SpectroRx to manage fault resolution

Developing cases for the case library and finding cases in the library are the two basic tasks that you perform with SpectroRx.

To develop the SpectroRx case library, you can first automatically create a seed library which SpectroRx creates based on the devices your system manages. However, to make the case library most useful to you, you should enter information about your alarm resolutions, as you resolve them, in the SpectroRx window. Each experience that you record and save is defined as a "case." As the case library grows, the more finely tuned and useful SpectroRx becomes.

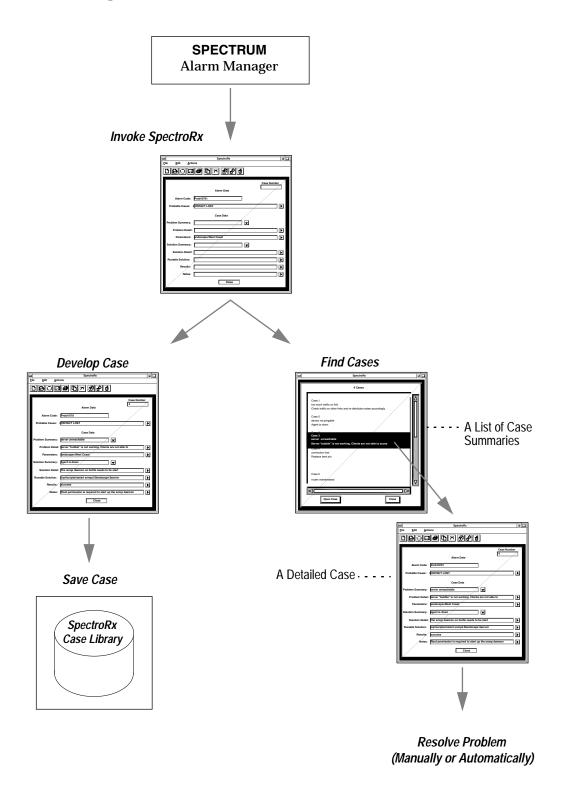
On a day-to-day basis, you can find cases from SpectroRx whenever alarms occur. SpectroRx evaluates the cases in the case library and then finds the cases that are similar to the current alarm. Depending on your request, there may be one or many cases for you to review. Some cases may even specify executable solutions that you can apply directly from the application.

Once a robust case library is established, SpectroRx provides you with a comprehensive and flexible mechanism to develop solutions to problems and manage the fault resolution process.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the SpectroRx workflow process.

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Figure 1-1. The SpectroRx Workflow Process



What Is Case-Based Reasoning?

Case-based reasoning systems try to approximate the problem-solving process used by the human mind. For example, if you are confronted with a new problem, you analyze past experiences that are similar to the present one. Then you select a solution that worked for one of these experiences and adapt it to the current problem. In a sense, your new solution is a gamble or a good guess because you do not know if it will really work. However, regardless of the success of the solution, the experience provides valuable new information that you can refer to in the future. As you tackle more problems, each experience makes you more knowledgeable. Your first solutions are based on good guesses but, as time passes, they are based on increasing expertise. Cased-based reasoning systems work in a similar way.

By definition, a case-based reasoning system must be able to:

- Learn from experience
- · Offer solutions to new problems based on past experience

A case-based reasoning system relies on a database of cases just as people rely on their experiences. Case-based reasoning systems use a retrieval algorithm to evaluate the cases in the case library and then find the cases that are similar to the current problem. As cases are added to the case library, the system is more likely to find cases that are very similar to the problem. The case-based system shows you how similar problems were resolved so that you can adapt the various solutions to your needs. Furthermore, the case library maintains a stable and accurate record of experience that is not affected by employee turnover.

How Case-Based Reasoning Systems Differ from Expert Systems

Case-based reasoning systems should not be confused with expert systems or rule-based, problem-solving systems. Expert systems hardcode a specific solution to a specific problem. For example, if Problem 1 occurs, then the expert system recommends Solution 1. The difficulty occurs when your problem has many similarities to Problem 1 but differs in a few ways. In this situation, the rule-based system cannot help you even though its database, or even Solution 1, contains a good solution. Expert systems are sometimes termed as "brittle" because they break down when their rules do not apply. They do not have the ability to manage new or ambiguous situations. For example, they cannot evaluate problems to detect their degree of similarity to other problems. Rule-based systems work for fixed, static environments but are inadequate for the fluid, rapidly changing world of information networks.

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About SpectroRx

Before you begin working with SpectroRx, you should be familiar with the following concepts: the SpectroRx architecture, the case, the seed case library, the case library, and the retrieval algorithm.

Architecture

SpectroRx uses the general architecture of all case-based reasoning systems. Five operations make up the building blocks of a case-based reasoning system — Input, Find, Adapt, Execute, and Organize. See Figure 1-2.

Input — An administrator begins the fault-resolution process by requesting solutions for a current case.

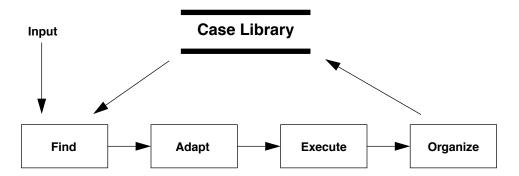
Find — SpectroRx uses a retrieval algorithm to evaluate past cases and then finds cases from the case library that are similar to the current case.

Adapt — The administrator reviews these solutions and adapts them to the current case.

Execute — The administrator executes a solution, either manually or directly from SpectroRx.

Organize — In the final step, SpectroRx organizes and records the results of this solution, thus creating a new case for the case library.

Figure 1-2. SpectroRx Architecture



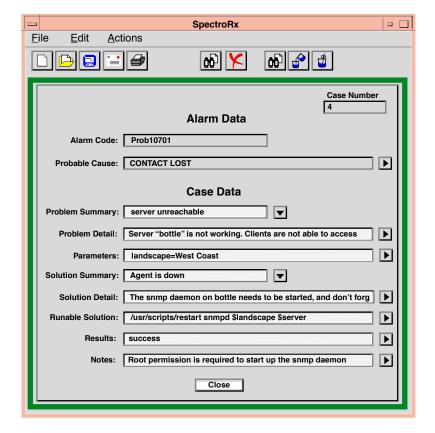
The Case

A completed case is a problem with one or more possible solutions.

The SpectroRx case looks and functions much like any form that you would fill out — a college or job application form, for example. Like an application form, it contains blank spaces (or slots) for information. When completed, it presents a set of data that is unique to a specific alarm situation.

The SpectroRx window, illustrated in Figure 1-3, represents a single case. When you fill out information in this window, you are creating a case.

Figure 1-3. A Sample Case



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The Seed Case Library

All case-based reasoning systems start with a seed case library. The seed case library provides a starting point for building the case library. It contains broadbrush solutions provided by SPECTRUM so that you can begin using SpectroRx immediately. However, to maximize the usefulness of SpectroRx, you should edit the seed cases, as appropriate, to fit your needs and you should add more cases as you respond to new problems.

You can automatically generate a seed case library for SpectroRx (see *Generating a Seed Case Library Automatically* in Chapter 3). Alternatively, you can also manually develop the library (see *Generating a Seed Case Library Manually* in Chapter 3).

The Case Library

The SpectroRx case library is contained in a database separate from that of the SpectroSERVER. Notice that it is *not* part of the SpectroSERVER database.

Each entry in the case library corresponds to a case and is made up of the following nine parameters in the order listed:

Case Number
Problem Summary
Problem Detail
Parameters
Solution Summary
Solution Detail
Runable Solution
Results
Notes

The Retrieval Algorithm

The heart of any case-based reasoning system is the retrieval algorithm. Unlike rule-based or expert systems, case-based systems must have a flexible way to evaluate the similarities of cases in the case library.

The SpectroRx retrieval algorithm compares the information in each library case with the information in the current case. Each case in the library is assigned points for every item that is similar to an item in the current case. When the points are tallied and every case is scored, SpectroRx sorts the cases according to the number of similarities and displays the most similar case first, the least similar case last.

Suggested Reading

Kolodner, Janet. **Case-Based Reasoning**. San Mateo, CA: Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 1993.

Lewis, Lundy. Managing Computer Networks: A Case-Based Reasoning Approach. Boston: Artech House, 1995.

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Chapter 2

Getting Started

This chapter describes how to access and use SpectroRx and describes the fields, sections, and buttons in the SpectroRx window and text-edit dialog boxes.

In This Chapter

- Four Ways to Access SpectroRx
 Four ways of accessing SpectroRx (from the Alarm Manager, from anywhere in the SpectroGRAPH, from the command line, and from the Web).
- SpectroRx Windows and Functions
 The two primary SpectroRx windows (the Alarm Data window and the search result window) and what you can do in each.
- Accessing SpectroRx from SPECTRUM
 How to access SpectroRx from the Spectrum Alarm Manager window.
- Generating a Seed Case Library Automatically
 How to automatically create a seed case library based on the devices your system manages.
- The SpectroRx Case Window
 An example SpectroRX window with its functions (section, button, and option functions).
- Accessing and Editing Additional Information
 How to expand the alarm data fields into text boxes where you can view and edit case information.
- Copying Solutions and Other Information
 A quick way to copy information from one case to another.
- Setting up SpectroRx as a Multi-User System
 Two ways to set up SpectroRx as a multi-user system.
- Plug-and-Play with Multiple Case Libraries
 A way to maintain or share multiple case libraries using SpectroRx.

Four Ways to Access SpectroRx

There are four ways to access SpectroRx.

- You can access SpectroRx from the Alarm Manager window in SpectroGRAPH. See *Accessing SpectroRx from SPECTRUM* in this chapter.
- You can access SpectroRx from anywhere in SPECTRUM, whether or not alarms are present. See *Accessing SpectroRx from SPECTRUM* in this chapter.
- Users (and integrated third party applications) can access SpectroRx from the command line. These procedures are described in Chapter 6.
- You can also access a read-only version of SpectroRx from the Web. From this interface, you can access the *show all cases* or *search for similar cases* functions. See Chapter 8 for more information.

Each way brings up a SpectroRx window.

SpectroRx Windows and Functions

SpectroRx consists of one primary window, the SpectroRx Case window and a secondary case list window, which change slightly depending on the action you are performing and whether you are using the Web, NT, or UNIX interface:

Case window

This window is displayed when you invoke SpectroRx from an alarm in the Alarm Manager. The window displays information about the selected alarm. From this window, you can find similar cases, develop a case for the selected alarm, develop a new case, read of possible solutions, run a solution, add a solution of your own, and so on.

Case List window

This window is displayed when you select either the *Show All Cases* or the *Find Similar Cases* option from either the SpectroRx Case window or from the SpectroRx options menu accessed from the Alarm Manager. In either situation, another SpectroRx window appears containing a list of case summaries.

Each item in the list contains the case number, the problem summary, and the solution summary. You can quickly see which case might be most appropriate for your needs. To select it, click on it with the mouse.

Accessing SpectroRx from SPECTRUM

There are two ways to access SpectroRx from within SPECTRUM:

- From the Alarm Manager window in the SpectroGRAPH.
- From anywhere in the SpectroGRAPH. This is helpful if you want to access SpectroRx when no alarms are present.

To access SpectroRx from SpectroGRAPH's Alarm Manager window, do the following. The procedure is illustrated in Figure 2-1:

- 1. Make sure SpectroSERVER and SpectroGRAPH are up and running.
- 2. Open the Alarm Manager window in SpectroGRAPH.
- 3. Select the entry for the alarm that you want to resolve.

The icon for the device having the alarm appears in the upper left corner of the Alarm Manager window.

- 4. Press the right mouse button (the menu button) on the icon of the device to pull down the Icon SubView menu.
- 5. In the Icon SubView menu, select **SpectroRx**.

The SpectroRx menu appears.

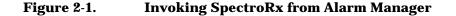
At this point, you have the following options:

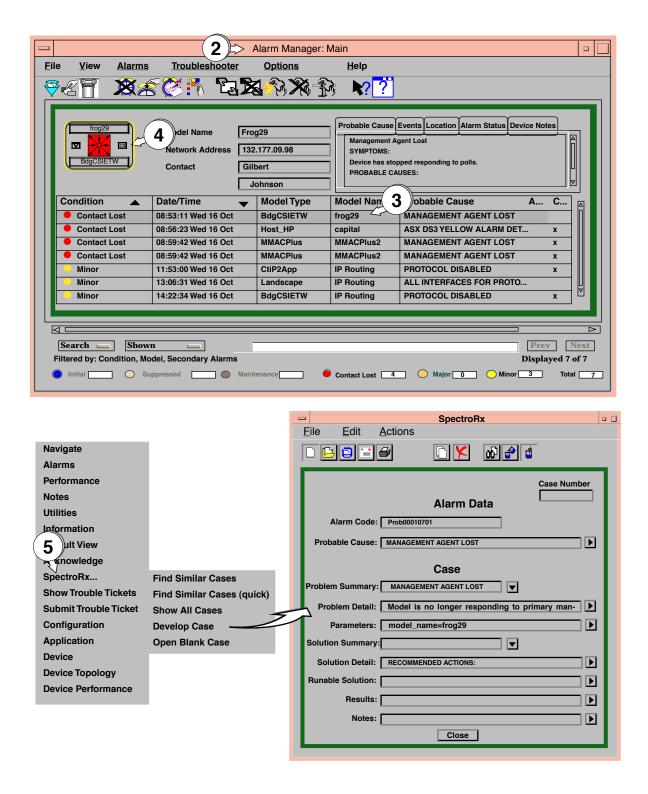
- Find cases similar to the selected alarm.
- Quickly find cases similar to the selected alarm. This option is a faster but less thorough search.
- Show all cases in the case library.
- Develop a case for the selected alarm. This opens a SpectroRx window including some information about the selected alarm. When you save the case, SpectroRx gives it a number.
- Open a blank case. Choose this option if you want to develop a case without information already in it from a selected alarm.

To access SpectroRx from anywhere in the SpectroGRAPH, click **File/SpectroRx** from the Menu Bar.

A drop-down menu appears with the following menu options:

- Show All Cases.
- · Open Blank Case.





Generating a Seed Case Library Automatically

When you first start SpectroRx there is no case library. Generating a seed case library will get you started with generic case information on all the devices your system manages.

To generate a seed case library, do the following. Steps 2 through 4 of the procedure (invoking spectroRx from an alarm) are illustrated in Figure 2-1. The rest of the steps are illustrated in Figure 2-2:

- 1. Make sure SpectroSERVER and SpectroGRAPH are up and running.
- 2. Open the Alarm Manager window in SpectroGRAPH.
- 3. Select an entry for an alarm.

The icon for the device having the alarm appears in the upper left corner of the Alarm Manager window.

- 4. Press the right mouse button (the menu button) on the icon of the device to pull down the Icon SubView menu.
- 5. In the Icon SubView menu, select **SpectroRx**.

The SpectroRx menu appears.

6. Select the Show All Cases option from the SpectroRx menu.

This shows that there is only one case, Case 1.

- 7. Select this case and click on the Open button.
- 8. Read the case information, especially all the solution details by clicking on the arrow buttons to the right of each case category. Follow the solution instructions.
- 9. Select the Run Solution option from the Actions menu.



- It may take awhile to create the library, depending on the number of devices your system is managing. So, please be patient.
- You can use this case solution in three ways:
 - To create a seed case library when there is no library.
 - To recreate a case library while deleting all current cases in the library.
 - To append new cases to an existing case library.

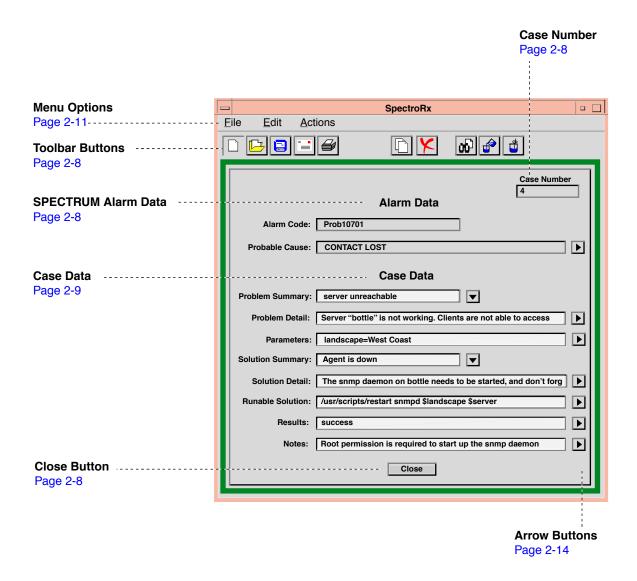
Two information boxes are displayed in sequence as the case library is built. First, the number of cases SpectroRx is going to create is displayed, and when the library is complete, it tells you how many cases were created.

Navigate Alarms Performance SpectroRx Notes 1 Cases Utilities Information **Default View** Case 1 Acknowledge The case library is empty. Open this case to see how to SpectroRx... **Find Similar Cases** build a seed case library. Show Trouble Tickets Find Similar Cases (quick) Submit Trouble Show All Cases Configuration **Develop Case Application** Open Blank Case Device **Device Topology Device Performance** Close - I SpectroRx <u>F</u>ile Edit Actions Find Similar Cases ₩ 🕹 Copy Solution From. Run Solution Case Num-**Alarm** Alarm Code: Probable Cause: **Case Data** Problem Summary: The case library is Problem Detail: The problem is to get new cases into the case Ii-Parameters: lacksquareSolution Summary: Open this case to see how 8 Solution Detail: To build the case library, select Run Solution from Runable Solution: make_cbr_db_append D Results: A case library will be generated automatically. D Notes: The case library cannot be generated using the Web Close

Figure 2-2. Automatically Generating a Case Library

The SpectroRx Case Window

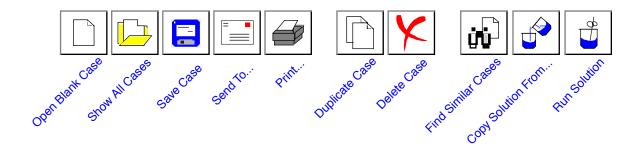
This section describes the various fields, sections, and buttons in the SpectroRx Case window.



When you first invoke SpectroRx, the SpectroRx window contains information about the alarm selected in SpectroGRAPH. This window is for creating and editing cases, for getting case information, and for running solutions.

If you want to find similar cases, click on the Find Similar Cases option in the Actions menu. This displays the SpectroRx search result window containing summaries of similar cases with the most similar one on the top of this list. To get more information, select a case and click on it.

Toolbar Buttons



The buttons in the toolbar give you easy access to SpectroRx menu options. For a description of each button's function, see the *Menu Options & Buttons* section later in this chapter.

Tool Tips provide "What's this?" help. To access Tool Tips, place the mouse over any SpectroRx toolbar button. A text box containing the button's function appears.

SPECTRUM Alarm Data, Case Number, and Close Button

You cannot enter or edit text in the two SPECTRUM Alarm Data fields or the Case Number field. Entries in the SPECTRUM Alarm Data section are provided by SPECTRUM and the Case Number is assigned by SpectroRx.

Item	Description
Alarm Code	Identifies the SPECTRUM alarm cause.
	It is also the name of the file which contains the Probable Cause text.
Probable Cause	A description of the alarm. This description can include the symptoms of the alarm, the probable cause, and a list of recommendations for resolving the alarm.
	To view the complete description, click on the button to the right of the field.
Case Number	The unique identifier for the case. SpectroRx assigns the number to the case when you save the case to the database.
Close Button	Closes the current window. You can also access this function from the File menu.

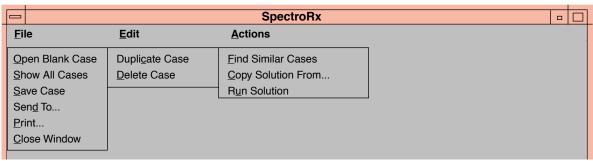
Case Data Section

You can enter information in all the fields in the Case Data section. To expand any of the Case Data fields, click on the arrow button to the right of the field.

Data Field	Description
Problem	A short phrase describing the problem.
Summary	You can type directly in the field or click on the arrow button to the right of the field and select a summary from the Problem Summary dialog box that appears.
	Notice that SpectroRx allows only one entry in the Problem Summary field.
	By default the Problem Summary dialog box is empty. As cases are saved, their problem summaries are saved to the prob_list file in the CBR directory. If you want the Problem Summary dialog box to display other problem summaries, you must edit this file. Type the problem summaries on separate lines in the file. Each entry can be a word or short phrase.
	You can modify this list at any time by editing the prob_list file. See Appendix B, <i>Customizing the Environment</i> .
Problem	An expansion or elaboration of the Problem Summary.
Detail	It can include any information, in normal text, that you wish to associate with the problem.
	Keywords should be enclosed in braces ({}), and can be separated by either a comma or a space. For example, {LAN2, Printer, failure}.
Parameters	Parameter/value expressions that may be pertinent to the solution of the problem.
	SpectroRx retrieves parameters such as the IP Address and Model Name from SPECTRUM. However, you can also add or edit entries in the field.
	If you click on the arrow button to the right of the field, the Parameters dialog box appears. You can create a column of expressions in this dialog box. Notice that expressions must have the format X=Y, where X is the parameter and Y is the value. Each parameter/value expression should be on a different line. The following are sample entries:
	landscape=atlanta user=casey OS=SunOS

Data Field	Description
Solution Summary	A short phrase describing the solution. You can type directly in the field or click on the arrow button to the right of the field and select a summary from the Solution Summary dialog box that appears. Notice that SpectroRx allows only one entry in the Solution Summary field. By default the Solution Summary dialog box is empty. As cases are saved, their problem summaries are saved to the sol_list file in the CBR directory. If you want the Solution Summary dialog box to display other solution summaries, you must edit this file. Type the solution summaries on separate lines in the file. Each entry can be a word or short phrase. You can modify this list at any time by editing the sol_list file. See Appendix
Solution Detail	B, Customizing the Environment. The solution to the problem, written in normal text.
Runable Solution	An executable command. SpectroRx will execute this command if you click on the Run Solution option in the Actions menu. The command can take the following arguments: \$pc (Probable Cause), \$pcat (Problem Summary), and \$ <parameter> (any parameter from the Parameters field). When you find a suitable solution in one of the cases, copy the solution into the current case with the Copy Solution From option. Then use the Runable Solution option to execute the solution directly from SpectroRx.</parameter>
Results	The results of the solution in either the Solution Detail or the Runable Solution fields. The results may indicate that the problem was completely, partially, or not resolved.
Notes	A convenience feature for SpectroRx users. When you e-mail or print cases, the information in the Notes fields is displayed at the top of the case. Enter comments, reminders, and information for e-mail recipients in this field.

Menu Options & Buttons



Menu	Option/Button	Description
Show All Cases Save Case Send To	Opens a new (blank) case. This case does not contain any information about an existing alarm. If you are creating a case library without existing alarms, use this option.	
		Brings up the search results window where you can select and open a specific case. The Show All Cases option allows you to edit or update the cases in the Case Library. For example, you can create and save a case as each alarm occurs, then fill out the Resolution fields later.
	Save Case	If the case is new (unnumbered), the Save Case option/button assigns a number to the case and saves it to the case library database. If the case already has a number, Save Case prompts you for confirmation before overwriting the existing case. SpectroRx displays an Information box confirming the Save.
	Send To	Opens the Send To dialog box where you specify the addresses of e-mail recipients. In this dialog box, you can either type the address of the recipient or select entries from the list of users. If you want to add users to the Send To dialog box, edit the user_list file in the CBR directory. See Appendix B, <i>Customizing the Environment</i> .

Menu	Option/Button	Description
	·	Becomplien
File (continued)	Print	Opens the Print dialog box where you specify the printer and then print the case. In this dialog box, you can either type the printer name or select an entry from the list. If you want to add printer names to the dialog box, edit the printer_list file in the CBR directory. See Appendix B, <i>Customizing the Environment</i> .
	Close Window	Closes the current window.
	Exit	Closes all windows and exits SpectroRx.
Edit	Duplicate Case	Creates a copy of the current case. The duplicate case retains the same Alarm Data and Case Data as the original. The only field that differs is the Case Number — it is blank. When you modify and save the duplicate case, SpectroRx assigns a unique number to it.
	Delete Case	Deletes the current case from the case library database. If you have only one SpectroRx window open and you delete the case, you delete the case and also exit the application. SpectroRx prompts you for confirmation before deleting a case.
Actions	Find Similar Cases	Finds all cases that are similar to the current case and that have a solution in the Solution Detail field. If there are no similar cases, SpectroRx displays a message indicating that. If there are similar cases, a SpectroRx window appears with a summary list of the similar cases. By selecting one of them and clicking on it, you can open that case from this window. SpectroRx sorts the cases according to their degree of similarity to the current case — the most similar case is the first, the least similar case, last. By default, SpectroRx finds 5 cases if they are available. You can specify the number of cases that you want to find by editing the resource file cbr_setup . See Appendix B, <i>Customizing the Environment</i> .

Menu	Option/Button	Description
Actions (continued)	113	Opens the Copy Solution From dialog box where you specify the case that contains the solution you want to copy. Once you copy a solution into the current case, you can use the Run Solution option to execute the solution directly from SpectroRx. Then you can record the results, modify fields, and save the case to the case library database. See also the section <i>Copying Solutions and Other Information</i> in this chapter.
Run Solution	Executes the command in the Runable Solution field. This option provides a way to automate the problem-resolution process.	

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Accessing and Editing Additional Information

Use the arrow button to the right of a text field to expand that field.



Click on a right-pointing arrow button, located next to most of the fields in the SpectroRx window, to view or edit the complete text for that field.

When you click on the arrow button, a text edit dialog box appears. See Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4.

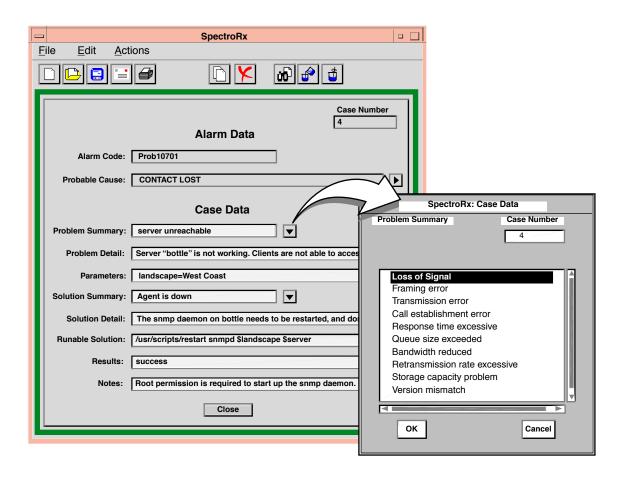


Click on a downward-pointing arrow button, located next to the Problem Summary and Solution Summary fields, to view the Problem/Solution Summary list or select one entry from that list.

The downward-pointing arrow indicates that the dialog box contains a selection list. You can select only one entry from the list. See Figure 2-3.

To edit the Summary list, see Appendix B, Customizing the Environment.

Figure 2-3. Expanding Fields



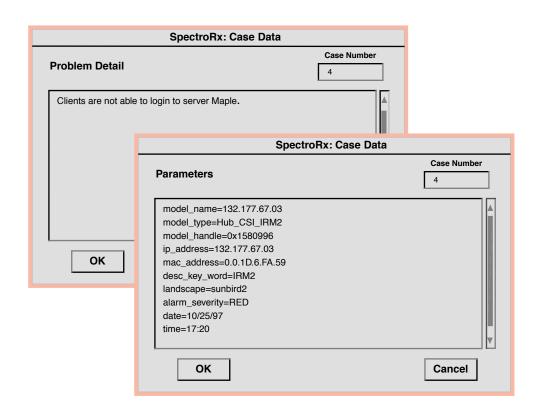


Figure 2-4. Text Edit Dialog Boxes

The Text Edit dialog boxes allow you to view all the information in each field and to edit that information.

Although the dialog boxes are similar, you must enter information in a format that is appropriate for that field. For example, the Problem Detail dialog box allows normal text and the Parameters dialog box requires parameter/value pairs.

Button	Description
ОК	Saves the entered or edited information to a temporary buffer and closes the window. The initial part of the text appears in the related field in the SpectroRx window.
	When you save the case in the SpectroRx window, the information is entered in the database.
Cancel	Closes the dialog box without saving any edits.

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Copying Solutions and Other Information

There are several ways to copy a solution or any other information:

- 1. With the mouse, select a solution from a similar case or select the information you want.
 - a. To select all the solution information:
 - Select the visible line of solution information and then scroll through it by moving the cursor to the right.

or

- Click on the down arrow to the right of the solution entry to open the solution pop-up window. Then select the information in that window.
- b. Copy the solution or other information by pressing CTRL/C.
- c. Position the cursor where you want to paste the solution and press CTRL/V.

The previous procedure works on both a Windows NT system and a Solaris system. On a Solaris system, you can also use the left keypad **Copy** and **Paste** buttons on the keyboard.

Alternately, you can:

- 1. Make sure the SpectroRx window is displaying the case that you want to resolve.
- 2. Click on the **Find Similar Cases** option or button to find similar cases from the case library database.

SpectroRx finds and displays a list of similar cases beginning with the most similar one, each containing a summary of the case problem.

- 3. Use the scroll bar on the right of the SpectroRx window to navigate through all the similar cases that SpectroRx has found. To select a case, click on it or select it and click on the **Open** button.
- 4. When you find the appropriate solution, note the number of the case that contains the solution. (You need to specify this number later in Step 6.)
- 5. Return to the outstanding case and:
 - Click on the Actions/Copy Solution From menu option or,
 - Click on the **Copy Solution** button. See **Figure 5-3**.

A Copy Solution From dialog box appears.

6. In the Copy Solution From dialog box, select the case number that contains the appropriate solution and then click on **OK**.

SpectroRx copies the information from both the Runable Solution and the Solution Detail fields into the current case.





Setting up SpectroRx as a Multi-User System

You can set up SpectroRx to be used by more than one user at a time. The best way to do this is described in Chapter 4.

However, some users may prefer to login to a machine and send the display back to their own machine. If you do this, you may have multiple people using SpectroRx at the same time, and possibly one person's changes can get overwritten if two cases are being saved at the same time. To avoid this, go to the cbr_setup file in the CBR directory and set the multi_user variable to yes, as follows:

multi_user=yes

When multi_user is set to yes, then only one user can save or delete cases at a time.



This approach (of sending a display to other machines) is not advisable because then all users would use the resources on the same machine, which could degrade the machine's performance.

Plug-and-Play with Multiple Case Libraries

You can set up SpectroRx to operate much like a cassette player and a set of cassettes, where SpectroRx is analogous to the cassette player, and the case libraries are analogous to the cassettes.

For example, you can maintain multiple case libraries such that each library addresses a specific sunject matter. Or, you can exchange case libraries with colleagues. Third party vendors may wish to offer "knowledge modules" for end users by developing specialized case libraries.

For more detail, see *Plug-and-Play with Multiple Case Libraries* in Chapter 4.

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Plug-and-Play with Multiple Case Libraries	
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Chapter 3

Developing the Case Library

This chapter describes how to create and develop the cases that make up the SpectroRx case library.

In This Chapter

- *Generating a Seed Case Library Automatically*How to automatically generate a seed case library to get you started.
- Making a Backup Copy of the Case Library
 How to ensure you will have a backup copy of the current case library.
- Generating a Seed Case Library Manually
 Three methods of developing and three goals in developing a case library.
- Preparing a Strategy
 A plan for developing a case library.
- Filling Out a Case
 The procedure for creating a case with a description of what is required in each field of the case form that you can edit.
- Editing an Existing Case
 The procedure for editing or completing an existing case.
- Opening a Blank Case
 The procedure for opening a blank case, something you would want to do when creating a case based on your experience rather than with input from a current alarm in the Alarm Manager.
- SpectroRx Worksheets
 A procedure with three worksheets to help you design cases for a case library.

Generating a Seed Case Library Automatically

When you first start SpectroRx there is no case library. Generating a seed case library will get you started with generic case information on all the devices your system manages.

To generate a seed case library, do the following. Steps 2 through 4 of the procedure (invoking spectroRx from an alarm) are illustrated in Figure 2-1. The rest of the steps are illustrated in Figure 3-1:

- 1. Make sure SpectroSERVER and SpectroGRAPH are up and running.
- 2. Open the Alarm Manager window in SpectroGRAPH.
- 3. Select an entry for an alarm.

The icon for the device having the alarm appears in the upper left corner of the Alarm Manager window.

- 4. Press the right mouse button (the menu button) on the icon of the device to pull down the Icon SubView menu.
- 5. In the Icon SubView menu, select **SpectroRx**.

The SpectroRx menu appears.

6. Select the Show All Cases option from the SpectroRx menu.

This shows that there is only one case, Case 1.

- 7. Select this case and click on the Open button.
- 8. Read the case information, especially all the solution details by clicking on the arrow buttons to the right of each case category. Follow the solution instructions.
- 9. Select the Run Solution option from the Actions menu.



- It may take some time to create the library, depending on the number of devices your system is managing. So, please be patient.
- You can use this case solution in three ways:
 - To create a seed case library when there is no library.
 - To recreate a case library while deleting all current cases in the library.
 - To append new cases to an existing case library.

Two information boxes are displayed in sequence as the case library is built. First, the number of cases SpectroRx is going to create is displayed, and when the library is complete, it tells you how many cases were created.

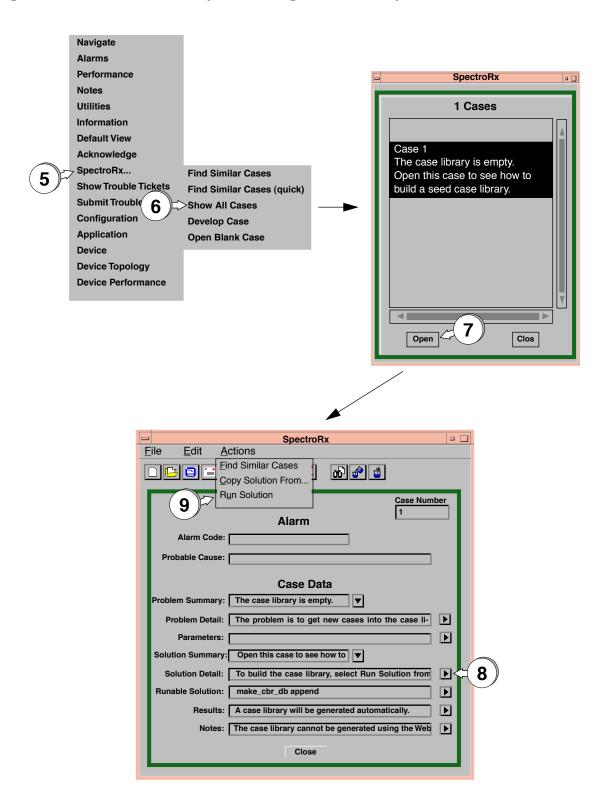


Figure 3-1. Automatically Generating a Case Library

Making a Backup Copy of the Case Library

You can configure SpectroRx to maintain a backup copy of the case library. This is useful if your system becomes corrupted.

Creating a Backup Directory

To ensure that you will always have a backup of your current case library:

1. Create a backup directory. For example:

```
mkdir /tmp/spectroRx
```

Make sure you give the directory the necessary permissions.

2. Go to the file cbr_setup in the CBR directory and put the path of your backup directory as the value of db_dir_back. For example:

```
db_dir_back=/tmp/spectroRx
```

Then, whenever a case is saved or deleted, the following files will be placed in this directory:

```
cbr.db
cbr.map
prob_list
sol list
```



This procedure allows clients using SpectroRx in multi-user mode to have a backup copy of the public case library on their machines.

Generating a Seed Case Library Manually

The intelligence of SpectroRx resides in the case library. Therefore, the first task that you should undertake is to create this library. There are three ways to approach this task:

- Create a "starter" seed library before you put SpectroRx into operation.
 - Integrators and service providers who develop case libraries for customers will probably use this method.
- Build the case library over time as network problems occur.
 - Some may choose to let the case base evolve over time.
- Combine the preceding two methods. Begin with a starter seed library and develop it further as problems and solutions arise.

Regardless of the method you use to create the case library, work toward these goals:

- Create a case for every significant network alarm that occurs.
 - The more cases you save to the database, the more knowledgeable SpectroRx becomes.
- Develop a consistent vocabulary for describing alarms.
 - SpectroRx compares cases in the case library to the outstanding alarm. Consistent and limited terminology will yield the best results.
- If possible, design programs to resolve alarm conditions.
 - Administrators can automate the alarm resolution process by running scripts or programs directly from SpectroRx. If you develop good scripts, they can be used to resolve subsequent alarms.

Creating a Starter Case Library

An easy way to start a case library is to have SpectroRx generate a seed one from which you can grow a library designed for your needs. See *Generating a* Seed Case Library Automatically for how to do this. These cases will include information provided by SPECTRUM on all the device types your system manages.

You can also create cases and a starter case library on your own. Some users, especially developers, may want to do this. In this situation, since the cases come from you and your experience, rather than from an alarm in SPECTRUM, they will not include the information provided by SPECTRUM.

If you want to create a starter case library on your own, follow these general procedures:

- Use the worksheets provided in the section **SpectroRx Worksheets** to organize and map out the cases that you will create.
- Access SpectroRx initially from an existing alarm in SpectroGRAPH.
- If necessary, use the Show All Cases option to select cases to edit and refine the information in the case library.
- Also use the Show All Cases option and then the Duplicate option, if applicable, to open additional cases.
- Fill out the information fields in each case with as comprehensive information as possible.

Creating a Case Library over Time

SpectroRx provides you with a great deal of flexibility. If you do not want to create the case library all at once, you can create cases "on the fly" over time. For example, if you are busy when the actual alarm occurs, you can save the incomplete case and then return later to enter detailed information.

If you create a case every time an alarm occurs, each case will include the alarm information provided by SPECTRUM plus any additional data that you add. This is an ideal way to create the library so that it reflects the particular needs of your networking environment.

To create cases "on the fly," follow these general procedures:

- Every time an alarm occurs, fill out the information in the case and save it to the case library database.
- If you do not have alarm resolution information at this time, make note of the number that SpectroRx assigns to the case.
- When you have alarm resolution information, open this case with the Open Case option and fill out the remaining information fields.

Preparing a Strategy

Before you begin to create a case library, you should spend some time developing your alarm resolution strategies and mapping out the vocabulary you will use to define SpectroRx parameters. Although this is important for all SpectroRx users, it is especially so for developers who create a library all at once.

SpectroRx searches each case for entries that are similar to the outstanding case. To maximize the intelligence of SpectroRx, you need to maintain a consistent vocabulary and syntax. Furthermore, you should define these approaches ahead of time.

Begin this way:

- 1. Organize your approach. Answer these questions:
 - a. What types of alarms are standard for your particular network?
 - b. What are the solutions for these alarms?
 - c. How can you categorize the solutions? If necessary, edit the **prob_list** and **sol_list** file in the CBR directory to customize the list of entries in the Problem Summary and Solution Summary dialog boxes. See Appendix B, *Customizing the Environment*, for instructions.
 - d. Do you want to create "automated" solutions for certain alarm conditions?
- 2. Establish the keywords that you will use to describe alarm conditions. Remember that SpectroRx searches the four parameters listed below, three of which are determined by the user. You need to establish consistent terminology for the last two fields.
 - Alarm Code (Provided by SPECTRUM)
 - Problem Summary
 - Problem Detail
 - Parameters
- 3. Use the three worksheets provided at the end of the chapter to map out the cases for the case library. The worksheets show you how to create a set of skeleton cases that you can flesh out at any time. See the section SpectroRx Worksheets.
- 4. Design the scripts or programs that you will use for runable solutions.
- 5. Create the cases for the case library as described in *Filling Out a Case*.

Filling Out a Case

Follow these steps to create a case for the SpectroRx case library.

1. Open SpectroRx.

Follow the steps in the section *Accessing SpectroRx from SPECTRUM* in Chapter 2.

The SpectroRx window appears. This window includes specific information about the alarm that you selected in SPECTRUM Alarm View.

2. Enter the appropriate information in the fields. See the section *Case Field Requirements* in this chapter for details about each field.

SpectroRx is not case-sensitive so it does not matter if you use lower or uppercase letters.

3. Select the **Save Case** option or button to save the case to the case library.

When you save the new (unnumbered) case, SpectroRx assigns a number to the case and enters the information in the database.



If you are in a multi-user system and someone else is saving or deleting a case at this time, you will get a message saying "SpectroRx is in use. Please try again." If you constantly get this message, the case library file could be locked from a system crash. To correct the problem, go to the <SpectroRx> directory (the directory that contains the case libraries) and remove the file in_use.

4. If you do not have the time or information to complete all the fields, jot down the number of the case after you save it, then open the case later and fill out the fields.

The section *Editing an Existing Case* later in this chapter describes these procedures.

Figure 3-2 contains a completed case.

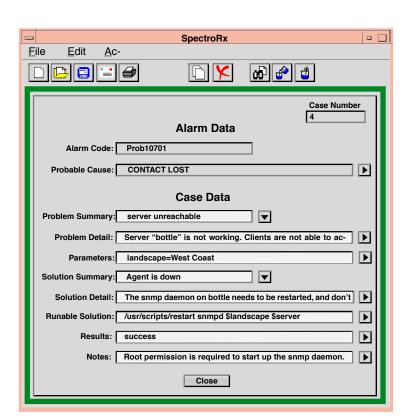


Figure 3-2. The Completed Case

Case Field Requirements

This section outlines the requirements for the fields you can edit.

SpectroRx Field	Requirements
Problem Summary	Enter a summary or select one summary from the list in the Problem Summary dialog box. You can create your own summaries.
	A single entry can consist of multiple words.
	By default the Problem Summary dialog box is empty. However, when you generate a seed case library, this list box is filled in. As cases are saved, their problem summaries are also added. You can modify the list at any time. To do so, use an editor of choice to edit the <code>prob_list</code> file in the <code><spectrum>/CBR</spectrum></code> directory. See Appendix B, <code>Customizing the Environment</code> .

SpectroRx Field	Requirements
Problem Detail	 Use normal text to describe the problem. Keywords should be enclosed in braces ({}), and can be separated by either a comma or a space. For example, {LAN2, Printer, failure}.
Parameters	 Even though SPECTRUM provides some parameters such as IP Address and Model Name, you can also add or edit entries in the field. If you add entries, be sure to use the format X=Y, where X is the parameter and Y is the value. Each parameter/value expression should be listed on a different line.
Solution Summary	 Enter a summary or select one summary from the list in the Solution Summary dialog box. You can create your own summaries. A single entry can consist of multiple words. By default the Solution Summary dialog box is empty. However, when you generate a seed case library, this list box is filled in. As cases are saved, their solution summaries are also added. You can also modify the list at any time. To do so, use an editor of choice to edit the sol_list file in the <spectrum>/CBR directory. See Appendix B, Customizing the Environment.</spectrum>
Solution Detail	Use normal text to describe the solution to the problem.
Runable Solution	 If appropriate, enter an executable command that will resolve this problem and problems similar to it. The command can take the following arguments: \$pc (Probable Cause), \$pcat (Problem Summary, and \$<parameter> (any parameter from the Parameters field).</parameter>
Results	 Use normal text to describe the results of the solution described in the Solution Detail or the Runable Solution fields. The results may indicate that the problem was completely, partially, or not resolved.
Notes	Enter comments for other users, reminders to yourself, or introductory information for e-mail in this field. Use normal text.

Editing an Existing Case

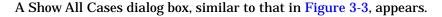
Follow these steps to edit or complete an existing case:

- 1. Open the SpectroRx case library.
 - If SpectroRx is not up and running:
 - a. Open the Alarm Manager in SpectroGRAPH and select any existing alarm entry.
 - b. Select the **SpectroRx** option from the Icon SubView menu of the device showing the alarm.
 - c. Then from the SpectroRx submenu, select the **Show All Cases** option.

The SpectroRx Show All Cases dialog box, similar to that in Figure 3-3, appears.

If SpectroRx is up and running:

In SpectroRx select the **Show All Cases** option or button.

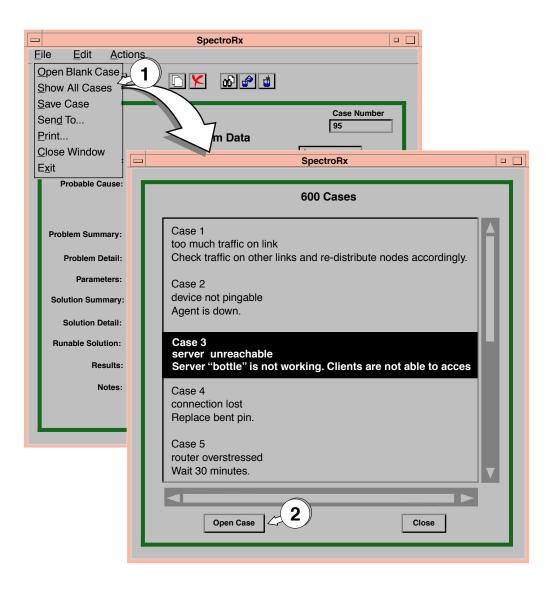


2. Select the case you want to edit and click on **Open Case**.

A new SpectroRx window appears displaying the selected case.

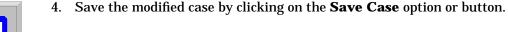


Figure 3-3. Opening a Specific Case



3. Edit the case either by typing directly in the fields in the SpectroRx window or by adding information to the text-edit dialog boxes.

Be sure to add information to the Solution Detail field. When you use the Find Similar Cases option, SpectroRx retrieves only those similar cases that include information in this field.



A Question dialog box appears asking you if you want to overwrite the existing case.

5. Click **Yes** if you want to overwrite the existing case.

If you do not want to overwrite the existing case and want to create another case instead, click **No**. To create another case, use the **Duplicate Case** option and then the **Save Case** option.

Opening a Blank Case

Follow these steps to open a blank case.

1. If SpectroRx is not up and running, invoke the application from the SpectroGRAPH Alarm Manager.

The SpectroRx window appears displaying information about the alarm selected in SpectroGRAPH.



2. In SpectroRx select the **Open Blank Case** option or button.

Another SpectroRx window appears. This window does not have alarm information in any of the fields.

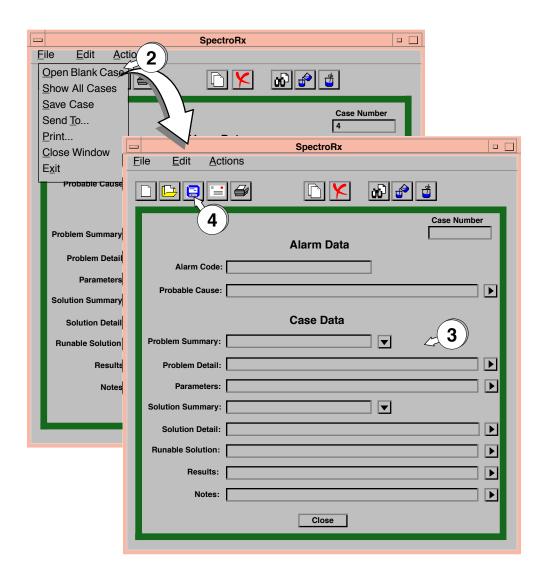




- 4. Click on **Save Case** to save the new case to the case library database.
- 5. If you are creating many cases at once, continue using the **Open Blank Case** option to create new cases.

The steps are illustrated in Figure 3-4.

Figure 3-4. The Blank Case



SpectroRx Worksheets

The SpectroRx worksheets will help you begin designing the cases for your case library and will also provide an overview of the cases in the case library.

- Worksheet I establishes the basic outline of the case.
- Worksheet II fills in the outline provided in Worksheet I.
- Worksheet III allows you to enter an executable solution, if possible, for the case described in Worksheet 1 and 2.

Proceed this way:

1. Make a copy of each of the three worksheets provided at the end of the chapter and tape them together so the cases line up as illustrated.



Notice that each case extends across the three worksheets.

2. Use Worksheet 1 to define the most typical alarms on your network. Fill out the Problem Summary and the Solution Summary fields in Worksheet 1.

These two categories are enough to create a functional case or, as described in the Worksheet, a "skeleton" case. If you save these skeleton cases to the case library, SpectroRx will be able to use them to retrieve solutions. Remember that SpectroRx searches the Problem Summary and Parameters fields and only retrieves a case if the case includes a solution in the Solution Detail field. If you complete Worksheet 1, you will have provided SpectroRx with all the necessary information for the searches. Stop here if desired. Otherwise continue with Steps 3 and 4.

- 3. Use Worksheet 2 to flesh out the information in the case. Fill out the Problem Detail and Summary Detail fields for the cases defined in Worksheet 1.
- 4. Use Worksheet 3 to further enhance the case with automated solutions. Although you will not be able to provide executable solutions for many alarm conditions, enter parameters in the Parameter field and an executable command in the Runable Solution field wherever possible.

Worksheet I - Skeleton Cases

List the typical alarms that occur on your network in the Problem Summary column. Enter a solution to the problem in the Solution Summary column. Each line on this worksheet is a skeleton case. Worksheet II and III flesh out the 30 skeleton cases on this worksheet.

1 2 3 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9 9 10 11 1 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 30	Problem Summary	Solution Summary
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9 10 11 1 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	1	
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20		
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
6 7 8 9 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
6 7 8 9 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	5	
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	6	
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	7	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	8	
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	9	
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		· -
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	•	
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	•	
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	·	
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		·
23 24 25 26 27 28 29		· -
24 25 26 27 28 29		
25 26 27 28 29		
26 27 28 29		
27 28 29	•	
28 29		-
29		
	30	

Worksheet II - Filling In the Cases

When you have completed the case outlines in Worksheet I, fill in the information for each case in Worksheet II. Use normal text for Problem Detail and Solution Detail.

Problem Detail	Summary Detail
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

Worksheet III - Completing the Cases

When you have completed Worksheet I and II, create the scripts and programs that you can use to solve the problem. Write the commands for the Runable Solution field on this worksheet.

Parameters	Runable Solution
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	



Chapter 4

Setting up SpectroRx as a Multi-User System

This chapter describes how to setup SpectroRx as a multi-user system.

In This Chapter

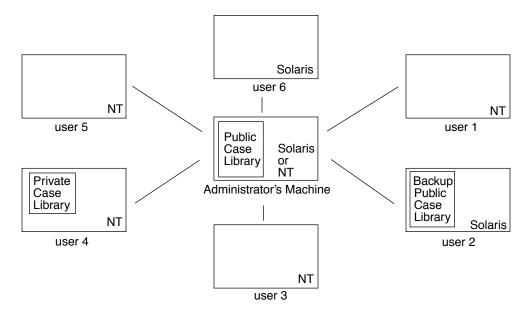
- How a Multi-User System Works
 How users in a multi-user system access the case library.
- How to Set up SpectroRx as a Multi-User System
 Procedures for setting up SpectroRx as a multi-user system on the Solaris and on the NT operating systems.
- Saving and Deleting Cases in a Multi-User System
 Permissions required and case file in_use when case library is being modified.
- Plug-and-Play with Multiple Case Libraries
 A way to maintain or share multiple case libraries using SpectroRx.

How a Multi-User System Works

One Public Case Library

Using SpectroRx as a multi-user system means there is one public case library and remote users use the knowledge that accumulates in it. Some users are given permission to modify the public library (that is, save and delete cases) while other users have only read permissions. The SpectroRx administrator, who owns the public library, decides which users have read-only permissions and which ones have read-and-write permissions. Figure 4-1 illustrates an example multi-user SpectroRx system.

Figure 4-1. An Example Multi-User SpectroRx System



Options

You have the following options when using SpectroRx in multi-user mode:

Making a backup copy of the public case library

SpectroRx can maintain a copy of the public case library on the user machines. This is useful, for example, in situations when the network goes down. In these cases, users will still have a fairly up-to-date library at their disposal. For instructions on backing up the case library, see *Making a Backup Copy of the Case Library* in Chapter 3.

· Making your own private case library

Users have the option of developing their own private case library. Users can switch back and forth between the public library and their private library, as appropriate.

Requesting modifications to the public case library

If a user has read-only permissions to the public library but wishes to have a case modified or add a new case to the public library, he/she can mail the Administrator the case, requesting the modification. The Administrator can review the case and make the necessary changes as appropriate.

How to Set up SpectroRx as a Multi-User System

Procedure Summary

First, set up a directory on the Administrator's machine that will hold the public case library. Next, the Administrator declares the directory as shareable with other selected systems. Finally, the other systems mount the shareable directory.



- Although the remote clients use the public case library, the SpectroRx features such as case retrieval consume the resources on the client machine. Thus, the performance of the Administrator and other remote machines is unaffected.
- If you are "mixing" Solaris machines and NT machines, then you will need 3rd party software that allows communication between them:
 - If your Administrator machine is a Solaris and you have NT client machines, you will need NFS (Network File System) client software (for example, *PC-NFS*).
 - If your Administrator machine is an NT and you have Solaris clients, you will need NFS server software (for example, *Diskshare*).

This software is not shipped with SpectroRx.

• You may wish to consult your Unix or NT Administrator if you are not familiar with your computer operating systems.

Procedure On the Administrator Machine

The Administrator machine can be running either the Solaris or the NT operating system. The procedure for setting up the machine differs slightly depending on which operating system is on the machine.

If administrator machine is a Solaris

- 1. Edit the cbr setup file. This file is in the SpectroRx directory called CBR (just under the SPECTRUM top-level directory):
 - a. Edit the line multi-user= to be multi-user=yes.
 - b. Assuming that you want the public case library to reside in the directory /usr/spectroRx, edit the line db dir= to be db dir=/usr/spectroRx.

For example:

```
multi_user=yes
db dir=/usr/spectroRx
```

Make sure you give the directory the necessary permissions.

2. Create the /usr/spectroRx directory.

```
cd/usr
mkdir spectroRx
```

3. Make the directory /usr/spectroRx shareable and give some systems read-only permissions and others read-and-write permissions where appropriate. As root, execute the share command as in the following example.

Suppose we want read-only permissions for systems c1, c2, and c3, and we want read-and-write permissions for systems c4, c5, and c6, then we would execute the following command:

```
share -F nfs -o ro=c1:c2:c3,rw=c4:c5:c6 /usr/spectroRx
```



The Administrator machine must have mountd and nfsd running so that the other systems can mount it. Usually, these daemons are running. But if they are not, go to the directory /usr/lib/nfs and, as root, execute mountd and nfsd.

See your Unix administrator or see the man pages for more information.

If the administrator machine is an NT

- 1. Edit the cbr_setup file. This file is in the SpectroRx directory called CBR (just under the SPECTRUM top-level directory):
 - a. Edit the line multi-user= to be multi-user=yes.
 - b. Assuming that you want the public case library to reside on the drive h and in the directory /usr/spectroRx, edit the line db dir=to be db dir=h:/usr/spectroRx.

For example:

```
multi_user=yes
db dir=h:/usr/spectroRx
```

- 2. Create the h:/usr/spectroRx directory. To create the directory, using Microsoft Windows NT Explorer, in the usr folder on NT, select File/New Folder and enter the name spectroRx.
- 3. Add users to your system, if you have not yet done so.
 - a. From the NT task bar menu, select Start/Programs/
 Administrative Tools (Common)/User Manager. This opens the User Manager window.
 - b. For each new user, from the User Manager's menu bar, select User/New User. This opens the New User dialog box. In the dialog box, add the username, password, password confirmation, and click on OK.
 - c. Exit the User Manager window by selecting **Close** from the menu displayed when you click on the left corner of its titlebar.
- 4. Give some user systems read-only permissions of the spectroRx directory and others read-and-write permissions where appropriate. To set read-write and read-only permission:
 - a. Using Microsoft Windows NT Explorer, right mouse click on the spectroRx directory and select the **Sharing** option. In the SpectroRx Properties window, select the **Sharing** tab.
 - b. In the Sharing tab of the SpectroRx Properties window, ensure that the **Shared As** radio button is selected, and that spectroRx is displayed in the dialog box. Click on the **Permissions...** button. This displays the Access Through Shared Permissions window, showing all current users.
 - c. To add users for SpectroRX in the Access Through Shared Permissions window, click **Add/Show Users**, and select each user you wish and click **Add**. Select the type of access you wish to grant and click on **OK**, then **OK**.
 - d. Click on **Apply** in the SpectroRx Properties window and then OK to exit the window. Then exit Microsoft Windows NT Explorer.

Procedure On Each Client Machine

• If the client is a Solaris

1. Create the /usr/spectroRx directory.

For example:

```
cd /usr
mkdir spectroRx
```

Make sure you give the directory the necessary permissions.

2. Mount the shared case library which is on the administrator machine:

For example, suppose the Administrator machine is named Admin5:

```
mount Admin5:/usr/spectroRx /usr/spectroRx
```

- 3. Edit the cbr_setup file. This file is in the SpectroRx directory called CBR (just under the SPECTRUM top-level directory):
 - a. Edit the line multi-user= to be multi-user=yes.
 - b. Edit the line db dir= to be db dir=/usr/spectroRx.

For example:

```
multi_user=yes
db_dir=/usr/spectroRx
```

If the client is an NT

1. Mount the shared case library which is on the Administrator machine. Use the Microsoft Explorer to mount file systems:

Select **Map Network Drive** and enter the name of the Administrator machine and the path to the public case library. For example, if the name of the Administrator machine is Admin5 and the path is /usr/spectroRx, then enter:

Admin5:/usr/spectroRx

Remember the name of the drive on which the library is mounted. Let us suppose it is k.

- 2. Edit the cbr_setup file. This file is in the SpectroRx directory called CBR (just under the SPECTRUM top-level directory):
 - a. Edit the line multi-user= to be multi-user=yes.
 - b. Edit the line db_dir= to be db_dir=k:.

For example:

multi_user=yes
db dir=k:

Saving and Deleting Cases in a Multi-User System

Users need the correct access privileges to save or delete a case in a multi-user system. If a user does not have such and tries to save or delete a file, the user gets a message similar to the following: "You do not have permission to modify the SpectroRx Case Library. See your SpectroRx administrator."

When a user is in the process of saving or deleting a case in a multi-user system, other users cannot access the case library. In that situation, they will get a message similar to the following: "SpectroRx is in use. Please try again later.

If you constantly get this message, the case library file could be locked from a system crash. To correct the problem, go to the CBR setup directory and remove the file in use.

Plug-and-Play with Multiple Case Libraries

This section describes how to set up Plug-and-Play with multiple case libraries.

A case library consists of four components:

- cbr.db contains the case library proper.
- cbr.map contains correlations between SPECTRUM alarms and case number (one-to-many).
- prob list the items that display when you press the explode (arrow) button for Problem Summary.
- sol list the items that display when you press the explode (arrow) button for Solution Summary.

These files are updated automatically when you save a case using the SpectroRx GUI. Thus, when you develop a case library, you can copy these files to a diskette or post them on an FTP server so others can access them.

To maintain multiple case libraries addressing different subject matters, complete the following steps:

1. Create a special directory for each case library. For example:

```
mkdir desktop
```

2. Put the four files into the library. For example:

```
cp <SpectroRx directory>/cbr.db /usr/desktop
cp <SpectroRx directory>/cbr.map /usr/desktop
cp <SpectroRx directory>/prob list /usr/desktop
cp <SpectroRx directory>/sol list /usr/desktop
```

3. Edit the cbr_setup file. In cbr_setup, edit the line db_dir= to read db_dir=<your_new_library_directory>. For example:

db dir=/user/desktop



By changing the value of db_dir, you point SpectroRx to different case libraries.

Chapter 5

Finding Cases and Using the Library

This chapter describes how to find similar cases from the SpectroRx case library, execute solutions directly from the library, and print and mail cases.

In This Chapter

- How To Use the Case Library
 A summary of the ways you can use the case library.
- Finding Similar Cases
 The procedure for finding cases similar to the selected alarm.
- Using Runable Solutions
 How to automate the alarm resolution process by creating the scripts and programs that resolve the problems and then executing the Runable Solution from SpectroRx after similar problems have occurred.
- Searching for Specific Case Information

 How to use the case library to find information.
- Printing a Case
 How to print a case
- Mailing a Case
 How to mail a case

How To Use the Case Library

SpectroRx gives you the tools to access and use the problem-solving expertise stored in the case library. With these tools you will be able to:

• Find similar cases so that you can resolve an outstanding alarm.

When you request similar cases, SpectroRx locates all cases that are similar to the outstanding case and displays them in the order of decreasing similarity. You can find these cases to see how they were resolved and then adapt a solution to fit your own needs.

Copy solutions from a found case to the outstanding case.

If you find an appropriate solution in one of the similar cases that you found in the database, you can easily copy the information into the outstanding case.

• Execute solutions directly from SpectroRx.

If the solution that you copy into the outstanding case includes a runable solution, you can execute this solution directly from the application.

- Mail or print cases.
- Search the case library for case information relating to specific devices or alarms

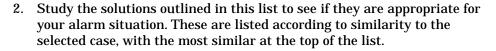
You can use SpectroRx as a search engine. For example, if you open an empty case, enter a device name in the Parameters field and then find similar cases from the database, you will be able to view cases that relate to that device.

Finding Similar Cases

Follow these steps to find and review cases that are similar to the outstanding alarm:

- 1. Do one of the following:
 - If you are in the Alarm Manager window:
 - a. Select the alarm that you want to resolve in the SpectroGRAPH Alarm Manager window. Then invoke SpectroRx from the Icon Subview menu. The SpectroRx submenu appears.
 - b. Then, select and click on either the **Find Similar Cases** or the **Find Similar Cases** (Quick) option.
 - If you are already in SpectroRx with the alarm you want to resolve selected: In the SpectroRx window, select the **Find Similar Cases** option or button.

Another SpectroRx window appears. This window displays a list of cases similar to the outstanding case.



The Points beside the case number indicate the degree of similarity between the similar case and the outstanding case. Cases with the same number of points are ordered by creation time, with the most recent at the top.

- 3. Click on the case that most closely matches your situation (or first select the case and then click on the Open button). This opens the Alarm Data Window. See Figure 5-1.
- 4. Adapt your own solution using the information from the found cases.

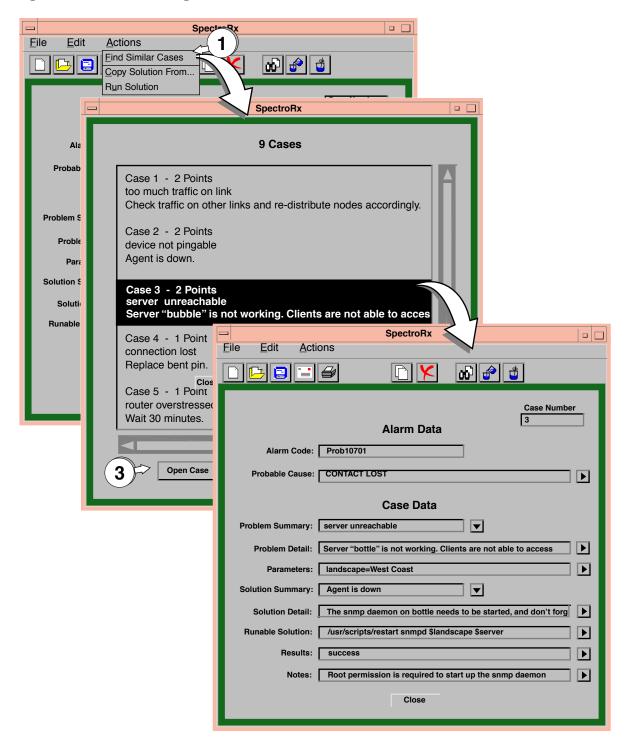
If you find appropriate solutions in one of these cases, you can copy the solutions to the outstanding case with the Copy Solution From option. (SpectroRx copies the information from both the Solution Detail and Runable Solution fields to the current case.) Then you can execute the Runable Solution from SpectroRx with the Run Solution option. The procedures are described in the next section, *Using Runable Solutions*.

- 5. (Optional) Complete and refine the information in the outstanding case.
 - If you can provide more precise information for the Parameters field, add or modify parameters in this field.
 - If possible, refine the command in the Runable Solution field and the description in the Solution Detail field.
 - Describe the results of your solution in the Results field.



6. (Optional) As a final step, save the case so that this experience becomes part of the SpectroRx knowledge-base.

Figure 5-1. Finding Similar Cases



Using Runable Solutions

SpectroRx enables you to automate the alarm resolution process. There are two basic steps to this process—creating the scripts and programs that resolve the problems and then executing the Runable Solution from SpectroRx after similar problems have occurred. This section describes these two processes.

Creating Scripts and Programs

Whenever possible, you should create scripts or programs that can resolve your network problems. These scripts can be written in any language that the shell understands—C, C++, scripting languages, FORTRAN, or UNIX commands, for example.

Follow these steps to create executable solutions:

- 1. Design the scripts and programs that SpectroRx can use to resolve network problems.
- 2. Create cases for these particular network problems, making sure that you include an executable command in the Runable Solution field of each case. This executable command can utilize both the programs you have designed and the information in the case.

Follow these rules when creating the command for the Runable Solution field:

- The command should use the full pathname of the script or program.
- The command can take the following arguments:
 \$pc (Probable Cause), \$pcat (Problem Summary),
 and \$<parameter> (any parameter from the Parameters field).

Figure 5-2 includes a sample script called **restart** that restarts a remote snmp daemon. If you enter the following command in the Runable Solution field, it will execute the script illustrated in Figure 5-2.

/usr/scripts/restart snmpd \$landscape \$server



Make sure that the permissions are set correctly on any scripts that you include in SpectroRx commands.

Figure 5-2. Sample Script

```
#!/bin/sh
# The script "restart" restarts various daemons and applications.
# The first argument, $1, specifies what is to be restarted.
# Below we have implemented a script that can check whether
# a SunOS snmpd is running. If the snmpd is not running, the script
# tries to restart it.
# The syntax of "restart" is:
            restart item arg1 arg2 ...
# Below, "item" is "snmpd", arg1 is the domain in which the item is
# located, and arg2 is the name of the item.
case $1 in
  snmpd) ## $2 is the domain name
        ## $3 is the device name
        ## Example: restart snmpd north atlanta wiz1
        running=`rsh $3 ps -aux | grep snmpd`
        if test "$running"
        then
          echo The snmp daemon on server $3 in domain $2 is running
          echo on `date`. No action taken.
        else
          result=`rsh "$3" /usr/etc/snmpd`
          echo Attempted to restart the snmp daemon on server $3 in
          echo domain $2 on `date`.
          echo The result was $result
        fi ;;
      *) echo Command not recognized ;;
esac
```

Executing a Solution from SpectroRx

Once you have created executable solutions for the cases in your case library, you will be able to find and reuse these solutions whenever similar problems occur. If you want to execute a solution directly from SpectroRx, you have to copy the solution from the found case and then run the executable solution from the outstanding case.

Follow these specific steps to copy and then execute the solution:

- 1. Make sure the SpectroRx window is displaying the case that you want to resolve.
- 2. Click on the **Find Similar Cases** option or button to find similar cases from the case library database.
 - SpectroRx finds and displays a list of similar cases beginning with the most similar one, each containing a summary of the case problem.
- 3. Use the scroll bar on the right of the SpectroRx window to navigate through all the similar cases that SpectroRx has found. To select a case, click on it or select it and click on the Open button.
- 4. When you find the appropriate solution, note the number of the case that contains the solution. (You need to specify this number later in Step 6.)
- Return to the outstanding case and click on the Copy Solution From option or button. See Figure 5-3.
 - A Copy Solution From dialog box appears.
- 6. In the Copy Solution From dialog box, select the case number that contains the appropriate solution and then click on **OK**.
 - SpectroRx copies the information from both the Runable Solution and the Solution Detail fields into the current case.
- 7. Now that you have copied the desired solutions into the current case, click on the **Run Solution** option or button.

SpectroRx executes the command in the Runable Solution field.

Steps 5 - 7 are illustrated in Figure 5-3.







SpectroRx **□** □ <u>E</u>dit <u>F</u>ile **Actions** 5 opy Solution From Run Solution Case Number SpectroRx: Copy Solution From **Alarm Data** Case Number Alarm Code: Prob10701 Probable Cause: CONTACT LOST Cases Bad Port Status **Case Data** 2 Management Agent Lost Not Pingable Problem Summary: server unreachable Connection Lost Problem Detail: Server "bottle" is not working. Clie Parameters: landscape=West Coast **Solution Summary:** Solution Detail: 6 L ▶ Runable Solution: Cancel OK Results: Notes: SpectroRx _ _ <u>F</u>ile Edit Actions Case Number 60 SpectroRx copies the **Alarm Data** information from the Alarm Code: Prob10701 Solution fields of the selected case into the Probable Cause: CONTACT LOST current case. Now you can use the Run **Case Data** Solution option in the current case. Problem Summary: server unreachable D Problem Detail: Server "bottle" is not working. Clients are not able to access Parameters: landscape=West Coast D Solution Summery: Agent is down Solution D The snmp daemon on bottle needs to be started, and don't forg Runable Solu /usr/scripts/restart snmpd \$landscape \$server D success D Notes: Root permission is required to start up the snmp daemon Close

Figure 5-3. Executing a Solution from SpectroRx

Searching for Specific Case Information

You can also use the case library database — as you would any other database — to search for specific information. Just create a "mini-case" that contains the parameters you want to search on. Then use the Find Similar Cases option to find similar cases from the case library database.

Here are some search possibilities:

- Enter a server name, IP address, or location in the Parameters field if you want to review the cases that relate to specific devices or locations.
- Enter a network problem in the Problem Summary field if you want to see how the cases in the case library resolve the problem. You can then edit cases to refine or correct the SpectroRx knowledge-base.
- Enter keywords in the Problem Detail field. Keywords should be enclosed in braces ({}) and can be separated by a comma or a space. For example: {LAN2, Printer, failure}.

To search the case library for specific information, follow these steps:

- 1. Open SpectroRx from an existing alarm in the SPECTRUM Alarm Manager.
- 2. In SpectroRx select the **New Case** option or button.

Another SpectroRx window appears. This window does not have alarm information in any of the fields.

- 3. Create a mini-case with one or two parameters, but do not save it to the database. Remember these points:
 - Enter a problem summary or parameters in the appropriate fields.
 - Entries in the Parameters field must have the following format: location=<*location*>. For Example: location=Atlanta.
 - Enter keywords in the Problem Detail field. Keywords should be enclosed in braces ({}) and can be separated by a comma or a space. For example: {LAN2, Printer, failure}.
- 4. Click on the **Find Similar Cases** option or button.
 - SpectroRx finds and displays a list of similar cases beginning with the most similar one, each containing a summary of the case problem.
- 5. Use the scroll bar on the right of the SpectroRx window to navigate through all the similar cases that SpectroRx has found. To select a case, click on it or select it and click on the Open button.





Printing a Case

Follow these steps to print a case.

- 1. Open or return to the case that you want to print.
- 2. In the Notes field, add any information that you want to appear at the top of the document.
- 3. Click on the **Print** option or button.

A Print dialog box, similar to that in Figure 5-4, appears.

- 4. Select a printer name from the list of printers or type the printer name in the Printer text field. To add names to the list in the dialog box, edit the **printer_list** file in the CBR directory. See Appendix B, *Customizing the Environment*.
- 5. Click OK.

SpectroRx prints the document, which looks similar to that in Figure 5-4. Notice that the Notes field appears at the top of the document.



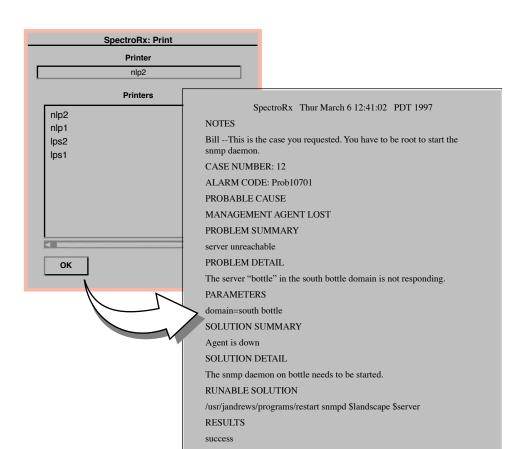


Figure 5-4. The Print Dialog Box and the Printed Case

Mailing a Case

Follow these steps to e-mail a case.

- 1. Open or return to the case that you want to mail.
- 2. In the Notes field, add any information that you want to appear at the top of the document.
- 3. Click on the **Send To** option or button.

A Send To dialog box, similar to that in Figure 5-5, appears.

- 4. Select any number of addresses from the Users list or type the recipient's address directly in the Recipients text field. To add names to the Users list in the dialog box, edit the user_list file in the CBR directory. See Appendix B, Customizing the Environment.
- 5. Click OK.

SpectroRx mails the document, which looks similar to that in Figure 5-5. Notice that the Notes field appears at the top of the letter.



For Mailing a Case to work on the NT platform, Windows Messaging must be running and properly configured.

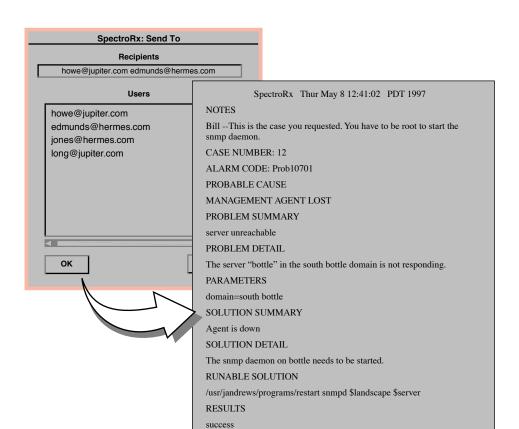


Figure 5-5. The Send To Dialog Box and the E-Mailed Case

Chapter 6

Integration with 3rd Party Applications

This chapter describes the SpectroRx integration interface.

In This Chapter

A SpectroRx integration interface is provided for developers who have programming experience.

Network administrators can use this chapter to integrate the problem-solving expertise of SpectroRx with 3rd party applications or to operate the SpectroRx engine without dependence on the SpectroRx GUI.

The chapter describes the following SpectroRx commands:

cbr_allcases	displays a list of all the cases in the cbr library.
cbr_delete	deletes a specified case.
cbr_execute	executes the specified command.
cbr_exit	closes all SpectroRx windows.
cbr_get_case	retrieves a specified case (or a blank case if no case number is specified).
cbr_mes	displays the specified text in a message box with either Yes/No buttons or an OK button.
cbr_purge	deletes all cases from the case library
cbr_retrieve	returns a list of cases, sorting the cases according to the degree of similarity with the outstanding case.
cbr_save	saves the specified variables as a case in the case library and also assigns a case number to the case.
start_cbr	opens an empty (blank) case in a SpectroRx window.

All SpectroRx commands are located in the CBR directory in the SPECTRUM directory. The **cbr_get_case** and **cbr_retrieve** commands have a **nogui** option that enables you to receive information in a string format.



Before you use SpectroRx commands, make sure the ND_PATH variable is set to the **ndlib** directory in the SPECTRUM directory. For example, if you are running the C shell, type the following on the command line:

setenv ND_PATH /<SPECTRUM>/ndlib

Commands

This section describes each SpectroRx command in detail.

cbr_allcases

Description: Displays a list of all the cases in the cbr library.

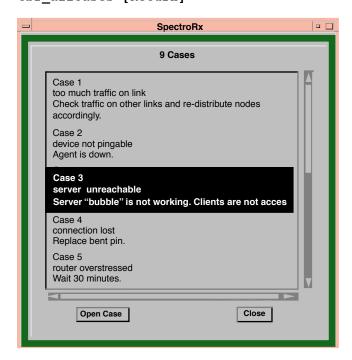
Syntax: cbr_allcases

Returns: A list of all the cases in the cbr library. You can select cases from

the list and open them, one at a time, by clicking on the Open Case

button.

Example: cbr_allcases [Return]



cbr_delete

Description: Deletes a specified case. Before the deletion, SpectroRx prompts

the user for confirmation with a GUI Yes/No prompt. The user

must select either Yes or No to continue.

Syntax: cbr_delete <case number>

Returns: If the user does not have permission to modify the case library, a

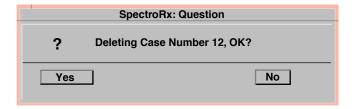
message states so and asks the user to see the SpectroRx

Administrator.

If the user does have permission to modify the library and selects Yes in the confirmation prompt, the command performs the deletion and returns a GUI information message saying the case

has been deleted.

Example: cbr_delete 12 [Return]



cbr_execute

Description: Executes the specified command and returns the results to

standard output.

Be sure to put Parameters in the **parameter=value** format.

Syntax: cbr_execute \

[ac=<alarm code>] \

[pcat=<problem summary>] \

[p1=<parameter1>] \
[p2=<parameter2>] \

.

<command> \$ac \$pcat \$p1 \$p2 ...

Options: ac SPECTRUM Alarm Code

problem Summary
pn Any or all parameters

Returns: The results of executing the command to standard output.

Example: cbr_execute ac=Prob10701 pcat="server unreachable"

model_name=acorn location=atlanta \
/usr/scripts/restart_snmpd \$ac \$pcat \

\$model name \$location



Make sure that the permissions are set correctly on any scripts that you include in SpectroRx commands. In the preceding example, restart_snmpd is a script.

Figure 7-4, callout 3, is another example of using the cbr_execute command.

cbr_exit

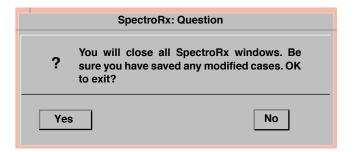
Description: Closes all SpectroRx windows. Before closing the windows,

SpectroRx prompts the user for confirmation. with a GUI Yes/No

prompt. The user must select either Yes or No to continue.

Syntax: cbr_exit

Example: cbr_exit [Return]



cbr_get_case

Description: Retrieves a specified case (or a blank case if no case number is

specified).

Syntax: cbr_get_case [case number] [nogui]

Options: nogui Returns information in a string

Returns: If you use the nogui option with the command, SpectroRx returns

the case information in a string format. Otherwise, it returns the

case in a SpectroRx window.

Example: cbr_get_case 5 nogui [Return]

cnum=5 | ac=Prob00010009 | pcause=CONTACT LOST

SYMPTOMS:

Device has stopped responding to polls.

PROBABLE CAUSES:

1) Device Hardware Failure.

- 2) Cable between this and upstream device broken.
- 3) Power Failure.
- 4) Incorrect Network Address.
- 5) Device Firmware Failure.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- 1) Check power to device.
- 2) Verify status lights on device.
- 3) Verify reception of packets.
- 4) Verify network address in device and SPECTRUM.
- 5) Cycle power on device and recheck.
- 6) If above fails, call repair. | kp=model_name=cisco.78

model_type=Rtr_CiscoIGS model_handle=0x10800dc ip_address=134.141.142.78 mac_address=0.0.C.5.A8.DD

desc_key_word=IGS-BR;IGS-BPRX;IGS-K;IGS-

landscape=slowaris

alarm_severity=YELLOW

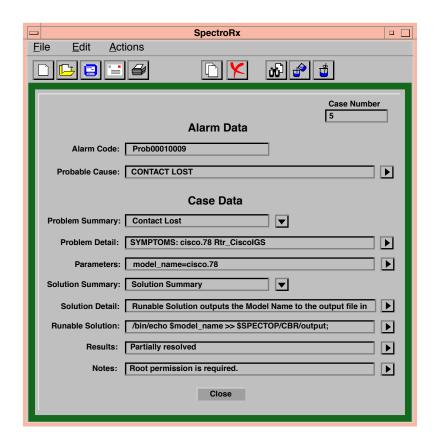
date=Fri 06 Jun 1997 13:15:45 EDT | sol=Runable Solution outputs the Model Name to the output file in the CBR directory. | run=/bin/echo \$model_name >> \$SPECTOP/CBR/output:

/bin/echo "severity = \$alarm_severity" >> \$SPECTOP/CBR/ output; | results=Partially resolved | notes=Root permission is

required. | solcat=Solution Summary

The following example is of the previous command but without the nogui option.

cbr_get_case 5 [Return]



cbr_mes

Description: Displays the specified text in a message box with either Yes/No

buttons or an OK button. If you use the command with the info argument, the message is displayed in a GUI with an OK button. If you use the command with the yn argument, the message is

displayed in a GUI with Yes/No buttons.

Syntax: cbr_mes yn | info "<message text>"

Returns: On the terminal screen, displays a message box as explained in

the preceding description.

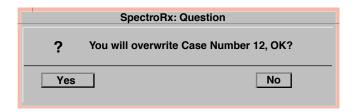
In a program, if the user selects the Yes button in the message box, a $\bf 2$ is returned. If the user selects the No button, a $\bf 1$ is returned. If

the user selects the OK button, no value is returned.

Example: cbr_mes info "There are no similar cases." [Return]



cbr_mes yn info "You will overwrite Case Number \
12, OK?" [Return]



cbr_purge

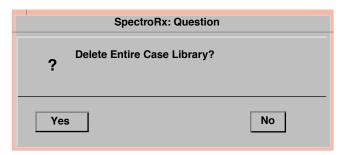
Description: Deletes all cases from the case library and returns a GUI

information message saying that the cases have been deleted.

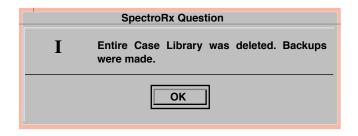
Syntax: cbr_purge

Returns: GUI information message.

Example: cbr_purge [Return]

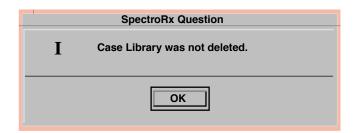


If you respond, Yes, SpectroRx deletes the entire case library and returns this message.



Backups of the cbr.db, cbr.map, prob_list, and sol_list files are by default put in the backup directory. See *Making a Backup Copy of the Case Library*.

If you respond, No, SpecroRx does not delete the library and returns this message.



cbr_retrieve

Description: Returns a list of cases, sorting the cases according to the degree of

similarity with the outstanding case. The first case is most similar to the outstanding case. Each subsequent case is less similar to the outstanding case. If you include the nogui option, SpectroRx returns the case information as a string. Otherwise it displays the SpectroRx Search Results window containing the list of similar

cases.

Syntax: cbr_retrieve

[ac=<alarm code>]\

[pcat=<"problem summary">]\ [kw=<"word1 word2...">]\

[kp=<"parameter1=value1 parameter2=value2"...>]\

[nogui]

Options: ac SPECTRUM Alarm Code

pcat Problem Summary

kw Key words in the Problem Detail field

kp Key parameters and their values in the Parameters field

nogui Return a string

Returns: If the nogui option is used, SpectroRx returns the case information

in a string such as "cnum=45 cnum=7 cnum=132."

If the nogui option is not used, it returns the SpectroRx GUI which

gives you access to all the similar cases.

Examples: cbr_retrieve kw="workstation ibm" nogui

Finds and sorts cases that have the words workstation or ibm in

the Problem Detail field and returns a string.

cbr_retrieve kw="workstation ibm" ac=Prob00370409

Finds and sorts cases that have Alarm Code 370409 and the words

workstation or ibm in the Problem Detail field.

cbr_retrieve ac=Prob00370409 kp="workstation=doc\

location=Atlanta"

Finds and sorts cases that have the Alarm Code 370409, the

phrase workstation=doc and location=Atlanta in the

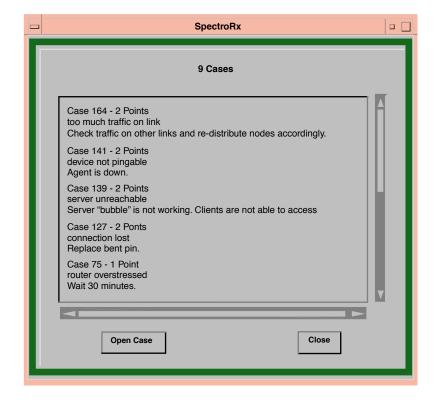
Parameters field.



When you use the cbr_retrieve command, you can give an argument more weight if you include the argument more than once. For example,

kw= "Address Address"

cbr_retrieve kw="Contact Lost" [Return]



cbr save

cbr_save

Description:

Saves the specified variables as a case in the case library and also assigns a case number to the case.

The first and third arguments after cbr_save must be a set of empty quotes(""). When you use the cbr_save command, SpectroRx assigns a case number to the first set of quotes. SpectroRx also derives the Probable Cause from the Alarm Code and assigns it to the third set of quotes.

Be sure to use all 11 arguments and *separate arguments with spaces between.* If there are empty variables, use empty quotes as placeholders for these variables.

Syntax:

```
cbr_save

"" \

<alarm code> \
"" \

"<problem summary>" \
"<problem detail>" \
"<parameters>" \
"<solution summary>" \
"<solution detail>" \
"<runable solution>" \
"<results>" \
"<notes>"
```

Returns:

GUI information message saying that the case has been saved. SpectroRx gives the case a number by incrementing the number of the most recently saved case.

Example:

```
cbr_save "" Prob10701 "" "No power" \
"" "landscape=West Coast ip_address=132.177.67.03"\
"Replace fuse" "" "" [Return]
```



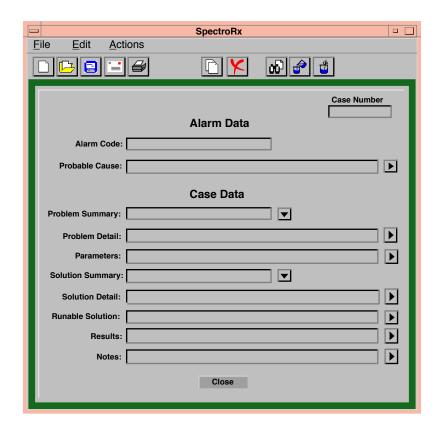
start_cbr

Description: Opens an empty (blank) case in a SpectroRx window.

Syntax: start_cbr

Returns: An empty case in a SpectroRx GUI.

Example: start_cbr [Return]



Commands	
start_cbr	

Intelligent Monitoring and Control

This chapter shows a programmer how to integrate SpectroRx and AlarmNotifier for intelligent monitoring and control — automatic monitoring and analysis of alarms, and the automatic execution of solutions.

In This Chapter

- How Automated Alarm Resolution Works
 What happens when you integrate AlarmNotifier with SpectroRx.
- Step 1: Setting up Cases
 How to build a data library of solutions (cases) to known problems.
- Step 2: Integrating SpectroRx and AlarmNotifier
 How to integrate SpectroRx software with AlarmNotifier software.
- Running the Integrated System
 How to run the integrated system.

How Automated Alarm Resolution Works

When you integrate AlarmNotifier with SpectroRx, this is what happens:

- 1. SPECTRUM detects an alarm on the network and informs AlarmNotifier.
- 2. AlarmNotifier forwards the alarm information to SpectroRx.
- 3. SpectroRx finds an executable solution based on its database of solutions to past problems.
- 4. SpectroRx executes the solution and displays the result in a message box and/or event log.

5. If the alarm is repaired, the alarm will disappear from the Alarm Manager view.

The larger the solution database, the better chance of the system finding a solution.



- The information in this chapter is for advanced developers. To successfully implement the programming described in this chapter, you should have a basic understanding of (1) the design of algorithms, (2) network troubleshooting and repair techniques, and (3) the SPECTRUM network management platform.
- The chapter example is for illustration and guidance. You can be creative and innovative as you develop further intelligence for automatic monitoring and control.
- The chapter example is developed in a UNIX script language, but you can use other programming languages.

Step 1: Setting up Cases

The first step in creating automated alarm resolutions is to build a data library of solutions (cases) to known problems. The following is an example of how to do this.

A Case Example

Sometimes SPECTRUM cannot communicate with a SNMP agent. When this happens, an alarm is created. The alarm issued when contact is lost with a SNMP agent is called **Prob00010701**.

Several things can go wrong, causing this problem, and for each type of error, there is a unique type of solution. For example:

- 1. If the program **snmpd** core-dumped, or someone has killed it, the repair is to restart it.
- 2. If someone has shut down the computer, the repair is to reboot it.
- 3. If someone has changed the port to which the SNMP daemon is attached, the repair is to re-assign the port to the SNMP daemon.

We assume we have cases built (solutions programmed) for each kind of repair. In particular, we have a case for #1 (in the preceding list) for which we have a runnable solution named **start snmpd**. The case looks like the one displayed in Figure 7-1, and has been saved to the case library.

The **start_snmpd** script (see Figure 7-1) is an example of a case for repairing a loss of communication with a SNMP agent when the repair is to restart it, as in situation 1 on the preceding page.

This script takes two arguments:

- A name of a host
- The problem type

The script issues a remote shell command to the host to re-start the SNMP daemon. The results of the command are assigned to the variable **result** and are displayed in a SpectroRx confirmation box. This message remains on the screen until a user clicks on the OK button in the confirmation box.

You can run this script directly from a case Graphical User Interface. However, in the next section, we show how the case can be retrieved and the script executed automatically.

Figure 7-1. The start_snmpd Script

Step 2: Integrating SpectroRx and AlarmNotifier

The second step in creating automated alarm resolutions is to integrate SpectroRX software with the AlarmNotifier software. Though this section explains how to do this, you should see the *AlarmNotifier User's Guide* and the *SPECTRUM Guide to Integrating Applications* for further details.

A Summary of How It's Done

Whenever SPECTRUM detects an alarm on the network, the AlarmNotifier executes a script named **SetScript**. Figure 7-2 shows a portion of the SetScript file that is shipped with the AlarmNotifier.

Figure 7-2. A Portion of the SetScript File

```
echo info()
echo " "
 echo "Alarm Notification from SPECTRUM"
echo " "
echo "Alarm SET:"
echo ""
echo ""
echo "Date: " $DATE
echo "Time: " $TIME
echo "Mtype: " $MTYPE
echo "ModelName: " $MNAME
echo "AlarmID: " $AID
echo "Condition: " $COND
echo "CauseCode: " $CAUSE
echo "RepairPerson: " $REPAIRPERSON
echo "AlarmStatus: " $STATUS
echo "SpectroSERVER: " $SERVER
echo "Landscape: " $LANDSCAPE
echo "ModelHandle: " $MHANDLE
echo "ModelTypeHandle: " $MTHANDLE
echo "IPAddress: " $IPADDRESS
echo "SecurityString: " $SECSTR
echo "AlarmState: " $ALARMSTATE
echo "Acknowledged: " $ACKD
echo "UserClearable: " $CLEARABLE
 if [ "$SANM" ]
then
echo "Location: " $LOCATION echo "AlarmAge: " $AGE
 echo "NotificationData:" $NOTIFDATA
 echo "ProbableCause: $PCAUSE"
                                         " $EVENTMSG
 echo "EventMessage:
fi
 echo info
```

A Summary of How It's Done

The information that the program gets, as shown in Figure 7-2, is simply displayed on the screen. However, this information can be passed to peer applications for further processing. For example, the AlarmNotifier is often used to integrate SPECTRUM with Trouble Ticket Systems, paging systems, and electronic mail systems.

In our example system, we pass this information to SpectroRx for automated diagnosis and repair. To do so, we modify the **SetScript** file by choosing select information and executing the command **cbr_retrieve** with this information.

We do this without the graphical user interface by using the **nogui** option for **cbr_retrieve**. For more information on this topic, see *Integration with 3rd Party Applications* in Chapter 6.

When we retrieve a list of similar cases, we will examine each case one by one and execute its runnable solution (if it has a runnable solution). Then, we will log the results in a pre-specified file in the SpectroRx directory and display a SpectroRx message in a message box.

The Integration Tasks

We set up the integration with the AlarmNotifier as follows.

1. Copy the following files from the **<spectrum>/Notifier** directory to the **<spectrum>/CBR** directory:

```
.alarmrc
SetScript
```

2. Modify the .alarmrc file as shown in Figure 7-3.

Figure 7-3. The Modified .alarmrc File

```
VNM NODE NAME=<your server name>
  VNM SOCKET NUMBER=0xBEEF
  VNM_MAIL_TIMEOUT=600000
  SEND ALARM DELAY=1000
  GET GRAY INITIAL_ALARMS=true
  GET EXISTING ALARMS=false
→ SET SCRIPT=<spectrum directory>/CBR/SetScript
→ CLEAR SCRIPT=
→ UPDATE SCRIPT=
  APPLICATION=AlarmNotifier
  GET LOCATIONS=true
  GET PROBABLE CAUSES=true
  GET EVENTS=true
  GET FLASH GREEN=true
  FORMAT FILE=<spectrum directory>/SG-Support/
  CsEvFormat/Event
  CAUSE FILE=<spectrum directory>/SG-Support/
  CsPCause/Prob
  EXPIRATION DATE=
  PASSWORD=
```

On the line **SetScript=** we enter **SetScript=<spectrum directory>\ /CBR/SetScript.** This is the pathname of the SetScript we want executed when an alarm occurs. Let the pathnames for **ClearScript** and **UpdateScript** be nil. For this example, we do not want SpectroRx to do anything when an alarm is cleared or updated.

3. Modify the **SetScript** file as in *Figure 7-4*.

Figure 7-4. The Modified SetScript File

```
#!/bin/sh
          cbr dir=`dirname $0`
          DATE=$1
          TIME=$2
          MTYPE=$3
          MNAME=$4
          AID=$5
          COND=$6
          CAUSE=$7
          REPAIRPERSON="$8"
          STATUS=$9
          shift 9
          SERVER=$1
          LANDSCAPE=$2
          MHANDLE=$3
          MTHANDLE=$4
          IPADDRESS=$5
          SECSTR=$6
          ALARMSTATE=$7
          ACKD=$8
          CLEARABLE=$9
          shift 9
          PCAUSE="$2"
          LOCATION=$3
          AGE=$4
          NOTIFDATA=$5
          EVENTMSG=$6
          PID=$7
          SANM=$8
0
          case "$CAUSE" in
                 10701)
                     *) exit ;;
          esac
          ac=$CAUSE
0
          kp="model_name=$MNAME model_type=$MTYPE ip_address=$IPADDRESS"
          kw="$MNAME $MTYPE $LANDSCAPE"
          \label{limits}  \mbox{similar\_cases=`$cbr\_dir/cbr\_retrieve ac="$ac" kp="$kp" kw="$kw"} \\ \mbox{}
0
            nogui | sed '/Case /!d' | sed 's/Case //' | sed 's/-.*//'
4
          for i in $similar_cases
          do
            full_case=`$cbr_dir/cbr_get_case $i nogui`
            cnum=`echo "$i" | sed 's/cnum=//'`
            auto_sol=`echo $full_case | sed 's/.*|run=//' | sed 's/|results=.*//'`
            if test "$auto sol"
            then
              $cbr_dir/cbr_execute $kp "$auto_sol"
              echo "In response to Alarm $AID, SpectroRx executed the Solution\
             in Case $cnum on `date`." >> $cbr_dir/record
            fi
          done
```

An explanation of four sections in the preceding code (see *Figure 7-4*):

- The case statement starting at line #1 discards all alarms except the ones we're interested in 10701.
- **2** The assignment lines starting at line #2 put the required information in the syntax recognized by the **cbr_retrieve** and **cbr_execute** commands.
- **3** Line #3 issues the **cbr_retrieve** command with the information we know about the alarm. **cbr_retrieve** returns an ordered list of similar cases, and assigns the list to the variable **similar_cases**.
- **4** The **for** loop beginning at line #4 steps down the **similar_cases** list looking for a runnable solution. Whenever it finds one, it executes it, passing it the parameters of the outstanding alarm.

Running the Integrated System

To start intelligent monitoring and control, navigate to the **<spectrum>/ Notifier** directory and from the command line, execute the following command:

```
AlarmNotifier -r <cbr_directory>/.alarmrc
```

Whenever an alarm of type 10701 occurs, the information will be passed to SpectroRx for automatic resolution and the results will be displayed to the user. In our example situation, we have just one case with an executable solution. When other cases are added to the case database library that might hold runnable solutions, they will be considered during the retrieval task.



Accessing SpectroRx from the Web

This chapter describes how to set up a Web interface for SpectroRX, and how to access and use it.

In This Chapter

- Setting Up and Accessing the Web Interface
 How to set up and access SpectroRx from the Web
- SpectroRx Web Functionality
 SpectroRx Web functions
 - Finding Similar Cases
 How to find a case
 - Viewing All Cases
 How to view all cases

Setting Up and Accessing the Web Interface

To set up and access the SpectroRx Web interface, do the following:

- 1. Install a Web server on the same machine where SpectroRx is installed.
- 2. In the location bar (or at the file location prompt) of the Web browser (for example Netscape Navigator/Communicator or Microsoft Internet Explorer), enter the location of SpectroRx. Use the following format:

http://<machine_name>/cgi/<path_to_CBR-directory>/cbr.cgi

All the figures show example locations. Yours might be different. An example:

http://lowell bd1/cgi/usr/data/Spectrum/5.0/CBR/cbr.cgi

This displays a Web page similar to the following (Figure 8-1).

Figure 8-1. Example SpectroRx Main Web Page



SpectroRx Web Functionality

The SpectroRx Web interface is read-only. The functions you can use are Find Similar Cases and View All Cases. The following sections show examples of these two functions.

The functions work slightly differently on the Web than from the NT or UNIX interface. However, the functions are the same. For complete descriptions, see *Accessing SpectroRx from SPECTRUM* in Chapter 2 and *Searching for Specific Case Information* in Chapter 5 respectively.

Finding Similar Cases

To find similar cases from the SpectroRx Web page:

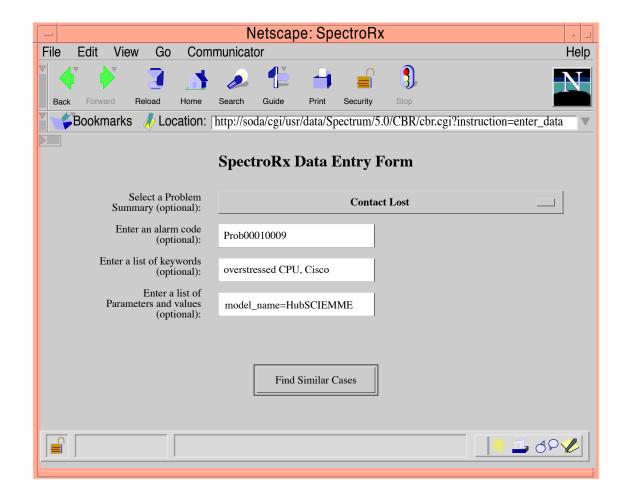
- 1. Click on the **Find Similar Cases** and **Go** buttons (Figure 8-1). This brings up the following SpectroRx Data Entry Form (Figure 8-2).
- 2. Enter one or more items in the entry form for SpectroRx to base its search on.

Click on the **Problem Summary** button on the right of that entry field to display a list of summaries from which to select.

The search is case insensitive; that is, you can use upper or lowercase letters. You can separate key words by spaces or commas.

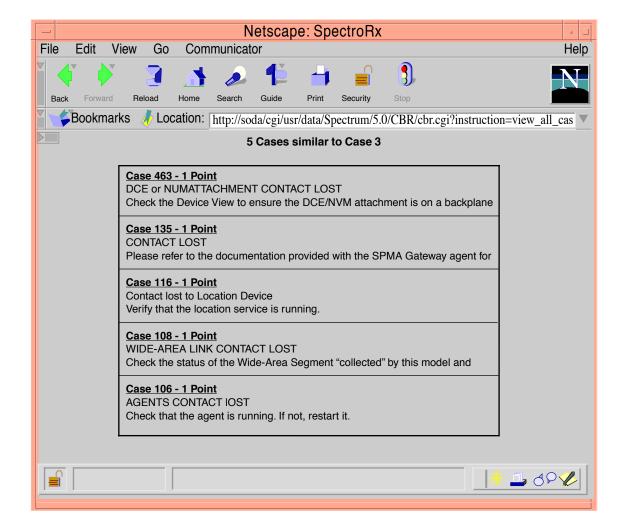
3. Click on **Find Similar Cases**. This brings up a Web page similar to that in **Figure** .

Figure 8-2. Example Data Entry Form



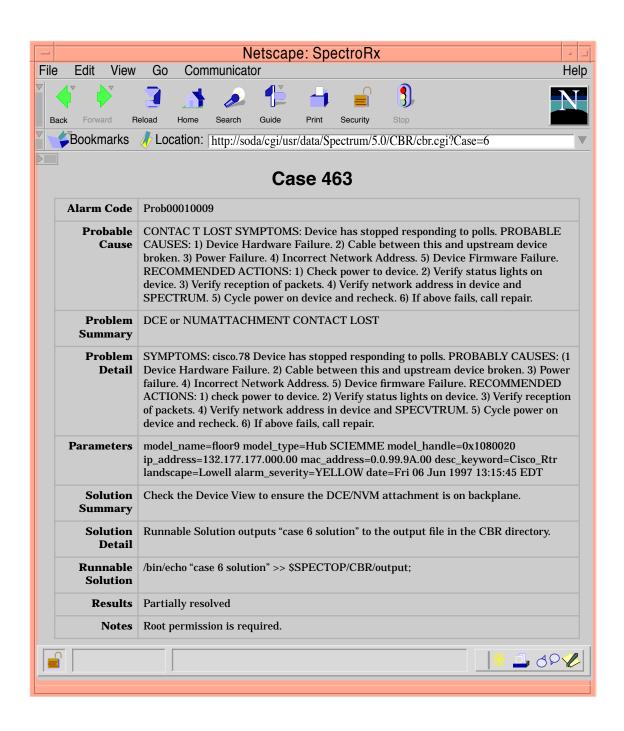
In the similar-case display, click on a case number to open it. The cases are listed according to similarity with the information you selected in the dataentry form. Points next to the case number indicate the degree of similarity.

Figure 8-3. Example Similar-Case Display



To view a case, click on the case number. Figure 8-4 shows an example case, as displayed on the Web, presumming a user clicked on Case 463.

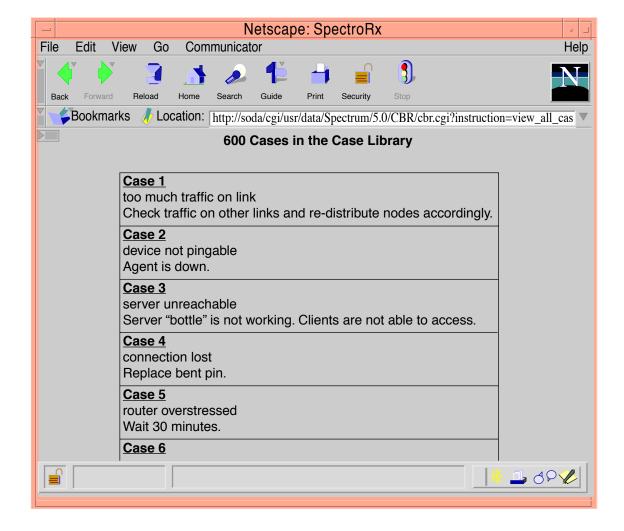
Figure 8-4. Example Case Display



Viewing All Cases

To view all cases, click on **View All Cases** and then **Go**. Figure 8-5 shows an example of the results. By clicking on the Case number, you can display that case.

Figure 8-5. Example View-All-Cases Display



SpectroRx Web Functionality	
Viewing All Cases	



Installation

This appendix describes the procedures for installing SpectroRx.

In This Appendix

- The Installation Process
 A summary description of the installation procedure as a whole
- Do You Need a Custom or Auto Installation?
 The two ways you can install SpectroRx
- Installation Procedure

 Detailed steps on how to install SpectroRx

9031666 E9 Installation

The Installation Process

SpectroRx is installed with the standard SPECTRUM installation program, **Install**. This is the same program that installs SPECTRUM, SPECTRUM management modules, SPECTRUM applications and tools.

During the installation process you will have to answer prompts in various dialog boxes. After you type the ./Install command, these dialog boxes appear:

- Software Extraction Key Window which prompts you for your Extraction Key code.
- Copyright Window which displays copyright information.
- SpectroINSTALL dialog box which prompts you to confirm the installation.
- SPECTRUM Host Evaluation dialog box which shows whether your system has the resources necessary for running SPECTRUM.
- Installation Configuration dialog box which allows you to specify, among other choices, whether you want a "custom" or "auto" installation.
- Component Selection dialog box which allows you to specify the applications that you want to install.
- Main Location Server dialog box which prompts you to enter the host name of the Main Location Server.
- Installation Monitor dialog box which displays the status of the installation process and finally indicates that the installation is complete.

During the installation process you will also see other message boxes prompting you for information that is specific to your particular situation. If you need more detailed information than this appendix provides, refer to the **SPECTRUM Installation Guide**.

Do You Need a Custom or Auto Installation?

When you install SpectroRx you have the choice of using custom or auto installation procedures. A custom installation allows you to modify the SpectroRx install directory. The default is:

SpectroRx install directory = **<SPECTRUM>/CBR**

If this default setting is correct, you should perform an auto installation. In this case, you do *not* select the **Enable custom script prompting** option in the Installation Configuration dialog box.

If you want to change the default setting, you can do so in two ways. You can either perform the custom install and change the values during installation. In this case, you select the **Enable custom script prompting** option in the

Installation Configuration dialog box. Or you can perform an auto installation and then change the parameter values in the **cbr_setup** file. See *Customizing the Environment* in Appendix B for instructions.

Installation Procedure

Follow these steps to perform either an auto or a custom installation of SpectroRx:

- 1. Before you install SpectroRx, install SPECTRUM according to the instructions in the *SPECTRUM Installation Guide*.
- 2. Log on to a workstation as root (superuser) and use the **cd** command to navigate to the directory where SPECTRUM is installed.
- 3. Insert the CD and start the installation using the procedures in the **SPECTRUM Installation Guide**.

An Extraction Key dialog box appears.

- 4. Enter the Extraction Key code in the dialog box.
 - A SpectroINSTALL dialog box appears asking you to confirm the installation.
- 5. Press the **OK** button in the SpectroINSTALL dialog box to continue with the installation.
 - **Install** evaluates your system resources and displays the results in a SPECTRUM Host Evaluation dialog box.
- 6. If your system resources are adequate, press the **OK** button in the SPECTRUM Host Evaluation dialog box.

An Installation Configuration dialog box appears. See Figure A-1.

9031666 E9 Installation

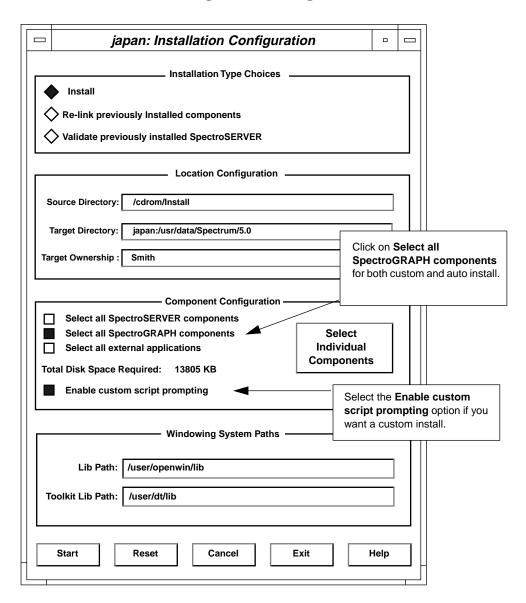


Figure A-1. The Installation Configuration Dialog Box

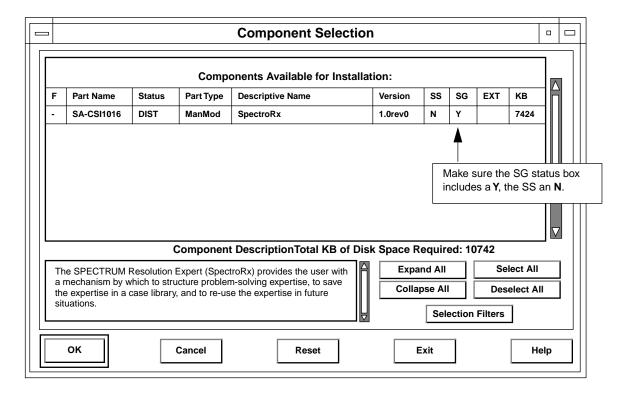
- 7. Enter the appropriate information in the Installation Configuration dialog box. The fields change depending on your selections.
 - For an auto install, do not select the Enable custom script prompting option.
 - For a custom install, select the Enable custom script prompting option.
- 8. When finished, click on the **Select Individual Components** button.

A Component Selection dialog box, similar to that in Figure A-2, appears.

9. In the Component Selection dialog box, select **SpectroRx** and type an **N** in the SS status box and a **Y** in the SG status box . Then click the **OK** button to close the dialog box.

You are returned to the Installation Configuration dialog box.

Figure A-2. The Component Selection Dialog Box



10. Select the **Start** button in the Installation Configuration dialog box.

A Main Location Server dialog box appears.

11. At the prompt, enter the host name of the Main Location Server and click on OK. To set up the machine you are using as the Main Location Server, enter the current host name.

After you click on OK, an Installation Monitor dialog box, similar to that shown in Figure A-3, appears. The Progress Meter in the Installation Monitor shows you how much of the installation has taken place. The Log field shows you the operations that are taking place.

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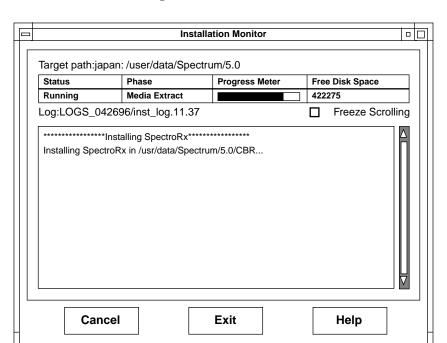


Figure A-3. Installation Monitor Dialog Box

12. If you are doing an auto install and did *not* select **Enable custom script prompting**, **Install** completes the installation. You should now skip to Step 13.

If you *did* select **Enable custom script prompting**, custom prompts, appear. Answer the prompt. Type **Y** if the default answer is correct. Type **N** if it is not. If you type **N**, **Install** asks you to enter the correct answer.

After you answer the custom prompt, **Install** completes the installation. The Installation Monitor is again visible. The Progress Meter in the Installation Monitor dialog box and a message box indicate when the installation is completed.

- 13. Click **OK** in the message box.
- 14. Close the Installation Monitor dialog box by clicking on the **Exit** button.

Customizing the Environment

This appendix describes how to edit the SpectroRx resource file **cbr_setup**, and other environment files.

In This Appendix

- Editing Environment Files
 How to edit the files that determine the SpectroRx environment
- SpectroRx Environment Files
 A description of each environment file

Editing Environment Files

Five files determine the SpectroRx environment. All of these files are located in the <SPECTRUM>/CBR directory. You can edit them at any time — even when SpectroRx is up and running.

The five files are as follows:

```
cbr_setup — SpectroRx resource file
printer_list — lists the names of printers
prob_list — lists problem summaries
sol_list — lists problem solutions
user_list — lists e-mail addresses of users
```

If you chose to modify any of these files, follow these steps:

- 1. Make a backup copy of the file before you edit it.
- 2. Open the file with a text editor.
- 3. Add new entries or edit the existing entries in the file. Refer to the next section to see what formats are required in each file.

SpectroRx Environment Files

printer_list

The printer_list file, by default, is empty. If you want the Printer dialog box to display a list of printers, you must enter the list of printers in this file. Type the printer names on separate lines in the file.

prob_list

The prob_list file, by default, is empty. As cases are saved, their problem summaries are saved to this file. If you want the Problem Summary dialog box to display other problem summaries, you must edit this file. Type the problem summaries on separate lines in the file. Each entry can be a word or short phrase.

user_list

The user_list file, by default, is empty. If you want the Send To dialog box to display a list of addresses of users, you must enter the e-mail addresses in this file. Type the addresses on separate lines in the file.

sol_list

The sol_list file, by default, is empty. As cases are saved, their solution summaries are added to this file. If you want the Solution Summary dialog box to display other solution summaries, you must edit this file. Type the solution summaries on separate lines in the file. Each entry can be a word or short phrase.

cbr_setup

The resource file cbr_setup contains three parameters. You can edit the parameter values in this file but not the parameters themselves. Refer to the description below to see how each parameter functions.

Parameter	Description
SPECTOP	The pathname of the directory where the SpectroRx directory (CBR) is installed. Default: <spectrum directory=""> Format: SPECTOP=/usr/data/Spectrum/5.0</spectrum>
top_list	The maximum number of cases that are retrieved when you use the Find Similar Cases option. Default: 5 Format: top_list=5
nt_print_server	For NT users only — The name of the NT print server. Format: nt_print_server=nps2

SpectroRx Environment Files		
cbr_setup		



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